Hafa Adai!

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PH consulate to hold mobile outreach on Saipan, Tinian. » PAGE 8

Saipan Tribune

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DENNIS B. CHAN
TE SubCom's CS *Durable* arrived at the Port of Saipan yesterday morning to begin repairs to IT&E's undersea fiber optic line.

Cable repair ship arrives

» Preparations to repair fiber optic line begins

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hopes for a sweet return to normal Internet speeds rest on the CS *Durable*. The TE SubCom cable ship arrived yesterday morning at the Port of Saipan and began preparations to locate and repair the damage to IT&E's undersea fiber optic line.

Saipan Stevedore personnel said the ship's estimated time of arrival was 10:30am. Between the hour of 11am and 12pm, *Saipan Tribune* observed the vessel securing its dock at

See CABLE on Page 4

2 women tie the knot in NMI

» Mayor Apatang administers historic 1st same-sex marriage in Commonwealth

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two women were married on Wednesday at the Saipan Mayor's Office, making them the first same-sex couple to be wed in the CNMI.

Henry Hofschneider, adviser of Saipan Mayor David Apatang, confirmed yesterday with *Saipan Tribune* that the mayor presided over the marriage rites of the two women, who were of Chinese descent.

The identities of the women were not released but *Saipan Tribune* learned

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Dynasty, US govt reach $3.03M deal

» US govt makes biggest forfeiture collection in CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The new owners of Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., which owns and operates Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and the U.S. government have agreed not to prosecute the criminal case against HKE in exchange for HKE's forfeiture of $3.03 million.

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, announced yesterday that the parties entered into a non-prosecution agreement that requires Tinian Dynasty to forfeit $3,036,969.12—the largest forfeiture ever collected by the U.S. government in the CNMI.

Limtiaco

In a separate press release, HKE chair Wai Chan disclosed that pursuant to the non-prosecution deal that the parties signed yesterday, HKE made a payment of $2.5 million to the U.S. government yesterday.

HKE counsel Sean Frink told *Saipan Tribune* that with the $2.5-million payment, HKE does not need to pay more because the over $500,000 that federal agents seized from Tin-

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A pair of car bombs explodes at crowded markets in Baghdad, killing at least 26.
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Oxbow Brewing is serving up beer brewed with live lobsters and a dash of salt.
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Madonna: I like to compare myself to other kinds of artists like Picasso.
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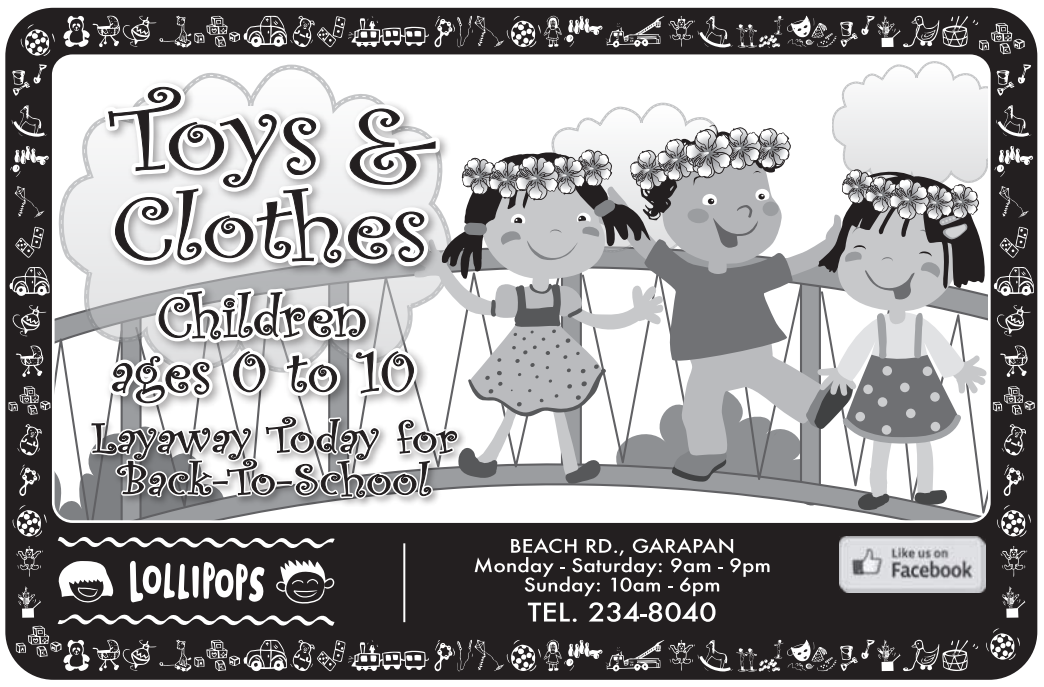

Local

House lawmakers back negotiation with Mariana Resort on land lease

By JOEL PINAROC
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REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives voted unanimously to adopt a House resolution that encourages the current administration and Department of Public Lands to negotiate a new lease with Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd.

The public land lease for Kan Pacific—which operates Mariana Resort and Spa—is set to expire in 2018.

The Japanese-owned company has asked DPL to be allowed to continue its lease and has committed some $75 million in additional investments in the CNMI.

But DPL earlier said it will issue a request for proposals for all expiring public land leases and solicit globally-competitive bids. The agency said the Office of the Governor supports the issuance of the RFPs.

DPL said this will be the way for "new" and "old" investors should they want leases for public lands.

But in a session yesterday, House lawmakers rallied behind House Resolution 19-26, authored by Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) to show support for continuing negotiations with Kan Pacific.

Sablan said H.R. 19-26 "respectfully requests" that negotiations be held for Mariana Resort and Spa instead of issuing an RFP.

Most of the representatives agreed with the resolution, noting that not allowing Kan Pacific to negotiate for a new lease might have severe implications for the CNMI.

Kan Pacific is the one of the first Japanese investors to come to the CNMI.

Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said the company has been in the CNMI "through thick and thin" and during the economic hardships that the Commonwealth went through.

Lawmakers also cited the fact that about 91 percent of 150 employees (or 137) of Mariana Resort and Spa are local residents.

RELATED NEWS
Chamber: Current leaseholders should have right of first refusal. **PAGE 5**

Shocked

Gloria Cavanagh, who is the general manager of Mariana Resort and Spa, said that DPL's position to call for RFPs instead of negotiating with the resort was "shocking."

Cavanagh, who is also the chairperson of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, said that DPL's position on the expiring leases "affects all five of our [HANMI] members."

However, with the adoption of the House resolution, Cavanagh said she is hopeful "this will impress upon the administration to push the DPL to come back to the table" to negotiate.

She said Mariana Resort and Spa is ready to negotiate even when it became apparent that the DPL is not.

Cavanagh said that DPL's last communication to Mariana Resort was just to confirm that the agency will go for competitive bids.

Speaking through an interpreter, Hiroshi Kitami, the president of Kan Pacific Saipan, said he is "very happy" with passing of the resolution, adding that his family have been in the CNMI for 37 years.

Kitami and Cavanagh, as well as a number of employees of Mariana Resort and Spa, trooped to Capital Hill yesterday to attend the session and throw their support behind H.R. 19-26.

Sablan said the resolution expresses the position that the House of Representative is taking when it comes to public lands with expiring leases for investors.

New date set for Chiget cleanup hearing: Aug. 19

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The public has a new date to hear the U.S. military's plans to clean up the old Chiget mortar range, a metals-contaminated "scar" left fenced off and closed on Tinian for decades.

Lt. Tim Gorman, Joint Region Marianas public affairs officer, confirmed a new date of Aug. 19 at 6pm at the Tinian Public Library. The hearing was originally set for July 15 but was postponed due to the telecommunications crisis that continues to plague the CNMI.

The old Chiget mortar range—located near the popular Tinian Blow Hole—has been investigated under the Navy's Military Munitions Response Program, or MRP. The 97.5-acre range was a battlefield during World War II. It was used for live-fire training from 1945 to 1994, and has been closed since then for about 21 years.

The hearing in August will come more than three months after a public hearing on Tinian for the U.S. military's proposed live-fire range complexes there.

Tinian officials and people have expressed concern over the military's proposal for a "high-impact area" range as part of their four proposed range complexes on Tinian. They point to the old Chiget range as an example of what a "high-impact" area means for their island.

Small arms caliber munitions, 40-millimeter rifle grenades, 60-millimeter mortars, and 81-millimeter mortars comprised the live-fire activity on site.

According to military impact documents, the Navy has given the Chiget range a priority of "4." This, after documenting chemical and health evaluations. MRP priorities range from 1, or highest priority, to 8, lowest priority.

The inspections confirmed the presence of metal constituents at levels "exceeding" 2008 Guam Environmental Protection Agency Pacific Basin Environmental Screening Levels for unrestricted land use where groundwater is a current or potential source of drinking water.

"Chromium and iron were the most common metals to exceed project action levels" and inspections "determined that munitions constituents concentrations did not exceed project action levels," the Navy said.

The Navy's studies recommended "further investigation to delineate the extent and magnitude of metals contamination and to assess the potential human health and environmental risks associated with past operational practices."

Marine Corps Force Pacific executive director Craig Whelden told *Saipan Tribune* last month that they have placed importance on this issue. He assured that senior leaders in the Department of Defense would understand "the scar Chiget is on Tinian and our obligation to fix it."

"While we will follow the MRP remediation protocols, we will also continue to explore in parallel ways to accelerate the cleanup," he said of their efforts.

However, Tinian historian Don Farrell, who was also chief of staff of previous Tinian mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, separately said the request for a cleanup was brought to the military's attention almost five years ago.

"It was our position then, and remains our position, that an artillery range will create a 'dudded impact area' that cannot be cleaned up, just as the Chiget mortar range cannot be cleaned up, and would thus violate the terms and spirit of the original Tinian land lease agreement," Farrell said last month.

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NMHC lays out five-year goals

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. has outlined housing goals and objectives for the next five years as part of a report to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

After consultation with government agencies, NMHC says similar goals and priorities were identified.

"…We share the same vision and that is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the CNMI through economic development projects" to provide opportunities to low-and moderate-income populations, public facilities, energy-efficient project, and recreational facilities, NMHC says.

NMHC's goals are: special needs and low-to-moderate income housing; increased homeowner education and counseling; promotion of fair housing; a sustained affordable housing stock; economic development, and the other community improvements.

The report to HUD details the housing plights of low-to-moderate income earning families. Overcrowding is a common problem.

NMHC produced estimates of 1.5 people per room for extremely low, low, and moderate income families. The CNMI's average household size is 3.26.

Housing costs burdens are also described. NMHC says costs greater than 30 percent and 50 percent of income are highly evident among low-income to moderate-income households.

CABLE

From Page 1

the Port of Saipan.

As of press time yesterday, IT&E did not put out a news release but sales and marketing manager Hans Mickleson said the ship was in and preparing to go to the cable site.

TE SubCom is a global undersea telecommunications and marine services company. IT&E hired SubCom's repair ship to fix the damage to its undersea line.

The vessel left Taiwan last Thursday.

The ship from Taiwan, as reports referred to it, now has a name. The CS *Durable* had been anticipated for weeks after PTI chief executive officer Jim Oehlerking said they had identified a ship to repair the damaged line. PTI is the parent company of IT&E.

The repair ship was originally scheduled to arrive on Wednesday, but IT&E said high seas and storms pushed its arrival date to yesterday, Thursday.

The ship is part of SubCom's fleet of six 140-meter-long "Reliance Class" vessels. It is specifically designed and built for cable maintenance and construction. On top of cable construction and maintenance activities, the cable ship provides platforms for trenching, mattressing, and salvage operations.

Oehlerking said last week that they were looking at a two-day timeline to repair the fiber optic line, depending on the initial investigation, identification of the break location, and the type of break.

According to IT&E, the slow Internet speeds users are experiencing will be top capacity they will experience in the interim until the cable is fixed.

Public School System teacher Loremel Hocog—like many other Internet users on island—hopes the cable problems are rectified as soon as possible.

Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* that he appreciates IT&E's temporary Internet connection solution, but it was still significantly hampering regular workflow and limiting communication.

"It takes 30 minutes to download a Word document and even if I have the ability to access the Internet, I lost the ability to text and call with my phone," Hocog said.

"Had it happened in the middle of the school year, student learning would be stalled. I incorporate 21st century skills in my classroom and 80 percent of my lessons rely heavily in technology. I hope they fix the issues with the fiber optic cables before school starts," the PSS teacher added.

CS *Durable* is part of a company that designs, manufactures, and installs systems around the world.

As of press time, the vessel was still docked at the port.

TE SubCom has deployed more than 490,000 kilometers of subsea communication cable around the world, enough to circle the Earth more than 12 times at the equator.

The CS *Durable* is part of SubCom's eight-vessel fleet. They include the CS *Global Sentinel*, BC *Teneo*, CS *Reliance*, CS *Responder*, CS *Resolute*, CS *Dependable*, and CS *Decisive*.

SIDEBAR

Taimanao hopes repair ship will obtain clearance ASAP

Rep. Francis Taimanao (Ind-Saipan) is hoping the vessel hired to fix IT&E's damaged undersea fiber optic cable will be given the necessary clearance as soon as possible so that repair work can start at once.

The vessel, carrying repair equipment, arrived yesterday from Taiwan.

Service provider IT&E contracted the ship to fix the damaged undersea cable.

"Yes, we have been informed that the vessel has arrived. But it still needs to get necessary clearance from [the] U.S. Coast Guard and CNMI Customs despite the urgency," Taimanao said.

He said the vessel has to undergo clearance as it is crossing U.S. borders. "I hope the vessel can be cleared a soon as possible, and get things to full capacity," he said.

Taimanao is chairman of the House Committee on Public Transportation, Utilities, and Communications.

Jose C. Mafnas, director of the Division of Customs, under the CNMI Department of Finance, earlier said the repair vessel will be subject to local taxes depending on its cargo.

He assured IT&E that Customs "will assist in any way we can so that it can be facilitated faster."

Pieces of equipment that were identified and required for the repair will also be in the ship but some will also be loaded on Saipan, including the replacement piece for the fiber optic cable.

The ship is a specialized vessel that uses jets instead of propellers to hold it in place for the repair process. It will be deploying a submersible to be able to determine the exact damage.

Repairs of the damaged cable located between Saipan and Tinian is estimated to cost IT&E some $2 million, James Oehlerking, CEO of PTI, the mother company of IT&E, said.

He said the repair cost will not be passed on to customers. But bulk of the repair costs will be replacement equipment that can only be acquired in the U.S. mainland.

The equipment was then flown to Taiwan and fitted into the repair vessel. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

DYNASTY

From Page 1

ian Dynasty is also forfeited to the U.S. government, bringing the total forfeited amount to $3,036,969.12.

Chan said they still have a lot of work to do and that full compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act requires "considerable planning and diligence."

Chan said the dismissal of the federal criminal case means that they can now devote more attention to resolving their other "legacy" problems while also focusing on enhancing the hotel and casino complex.

"We are excited to finally be able to move forward with further projects that have been in the pipeline, but held up until we can resolve the outstanding issues, so that our work and investment can be used to benefit the people of the island of Tinian and our investors during these difficult economic times," he said.

The non-prosecution agreement also obligates Tinian Dynasty to cooperate with the U.S. in ongoing criminal investigations and to comply with federal reporting and other regulatory requirements.

Under the deal, the U.S. government—in its sole discretion—can rescind the agreement and initiate criminal proceedings should the U.S. government determine that Tinian Dynasty has failed to comply with any provision of the agreement.

Limtiaco said the agreement further requires Tinian Dynasty to implement new policies and procedures to ensure stringent compliance with federal law.

The new policies and procedures will assist the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and the Gaming Commission on better identifying all taxable revenue.

Limtiaco said the U.S. will closely monitor Tinian Dynasty to ensure compliance with their reporting requirements under federal law as well as under the terms of the agreement.

Teri L. Alexander, special agent-in-charge of IRS Criminal Investigation in Seattle, Washington, said casino reporting requirements under the Bank Secrecy Act are an important means of preventing abuse of the financial system by those seeking to conceal ill-gotten gains or evade their tax obligations.

"The requirement of this agreement—that the Tinian Dynasty Casino fully cooperate with IRS CI—is an important step in ensuring that those who may be trying to evade reporting requirements are detected," Alexander said.

Alexander said the Bank Secrecy Act requires that financial institutions and certain businesses, including casinos with annual gaming revenue in excess of $1 million, to be vigilant in detecting and reporting activity that may indicate that money laundering, or other financial crimes, are being committed, and that the casino implement and maintain an effective anti-money laundering program.

The BSA requires casinos to file a currency transaction report for transactions that involve more than $10,000 in cash. Cash includes the coins and currency of the U.S. and foreign countries. The law requires casinos and businesses to report transactions when customers use cash in a single transaction or a related transaction occurring within a 24-hour period.

HKE chair Chan said that, pursuant to the agreement, HKE acknowledges the acts alleged against it, pledges to cooperate with, and to regularly report to, the U.S. government regarding anti-money laundering and Bank Secrecy Act issues.

Chan said the alleged violations all occurred before the present owners of HKE became involved.

Upon taking over, Chan said, the new owners infused much needed capital into the casino, which was used to pay millions of dollars in employee back wages and local taxes and fines, and to pay off other obligations incurred by the previous management.

Chan disclosed that HKE retained the Spectrum Gaming Group, a preeminent casino compliance firm, to work closely with the new Tinian Dynasty management team to ensure that stringent and state of the art BSA and anti-money laundering compliance programs are implemented and maintained.

"We will work very hard to ensure full compliance with federal laws going forward," Chan said.

Limtiaco stated that under the BSA and its implementing regulations, financial institutions that fail to adequately know its customers and screen their transactions for suspicious activities can be exploited by criminals.

Limtiaco said financial institutions that do not comply with the BSA also gain an unfair competitive advantage within the industry.

Limtiaco said the IRS Criminal Investigation, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the Department of Justice will continue to partner to ensure casinos, financial institutions, and businesses comply with the requirements of the BSA and other regulations.

IRS Criminal Investigation conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Marivic P. David, Russell H. Lorfing, and Ross K. Naughton handled the case.

The U.S. government filed in November last year 158 criminal charges against HKE.

The charges are one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report or CTR, 155 counts of failure to file a CTR, one count of failure to file a suspicious activity report, and one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program. The indictment has also a notice of forfeiture.

The trial was reset several times following the parties' request to continue because the U.S. Department of Justice's Main Justice in Washington, D.C. had yet to issue a final decision regarding the settlement deal.

Last June, the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network assessed a civil penalty in the amount of $75 million against the owner of Tinian Dynasty for "willful and egregious violations" of the BSA. HKE has yet to issue statement on how they are going to deal with the penalty.

WOMEN

From Page 1

that one of them is a U.S. citizen.

Hofschneider said Attorney General Edward Manibusan issued a memorandum last June 30, addressed to all authorized officials who can perform marriage ceremonies in the Commonwealth.

"The Supreme Court opinion now makes same-sex marriage lawful in the CNMI," Hofschneider said, quoting the AG's memorandum.

Aside from mayors, the governor and Commonwealth judges could also perform marriage rites in the CNMI.

Hofschneider said that, as with heterosexual marriages, everything else is the same with same-sex marriage except for the application form, which the AG had to revise to make it "gender neutral."

The form used to indicate male or female, or bride or groom, but now the parties are called in the form "Party A" and "Party B."

Hofschneider said marriage license applications are available on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Northern Islands' mayors' offices.

Superior Court clerk of court Patrick Diaz said that, as of yesterday, he has yet to hear of a same-sex marriage being administered by a judge in local courts.

Diaz said all marriage licenses have to be filed in the Recorder's Office.

Bobby Yamada, the marriage coordinator at the Saipan Mayor's Office, said the marriage license fee is $50 and it doesn't matter if it's for same-sex marriage or not. The other requirements are birth certificates and identification cards, among others.

Last June, Manibusan said, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on the issue of same-sex marriage, saying it is a right guaranteed under the equal protection clause of the law, and that the ruling compels all states and territories to follow.

"Thus, the Commonwealth has to comply with the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *Obergefell v. Hodges*," Manibusan said.

Manibusan said the Office of the Attorney General will be working with the administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos in drafting regulations and conforming the marriage applications to the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a historic ruling through a 5-4 vote that legalized same-sex marriage across the 50 states and insular areas such as the CNMI.

'Current leaseholders should have right of refusal'

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce believes in maintaining continuity and sustainability with regards to hotel investments in the CNMI.

In a recent interview, Chamber president Alex Sablan said that hotels such as Mariana Resort and Spa should be given the right of refusal when their leases expire.

"What we believe we should be doing is maintaining continuity, long-term stability, sustainability—and that's what you have with the current owners who have been here for almost 40 years and we believe that should be an opportunity for them to be given first right of refusal for the properties," Sablan said.

He added that a diversified market should be upheld.

"We believe that a good, diversified market is the way to go. Right now you have diversity in the ownership of the hotels: Japan, Korea, China," he said.

"The fear you may have down the road is that we put all our eggs in one basket because, in large part, the people that are coming and investing right now are the Chinese only. There really isn't any nationality of sorts in investment that is coming or has come in the last 12 to 15 years," he added.

Last May, the Department of Public Lands sent out a letter to five Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands members—Mariana Resort, Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Hyatt Regency Saipan—to solicit expressions of interest to extend their current leasehold.

Mariana Resort has less than three years left on its lease, Fiesta Resort and Hyatt Regency have about six years left, while Kanoa Resort and Pacific Islands Club Saipan have about 10 years.

In a follow up letter, DPL said it will now apply to expiring leases the new policy of conducting global solicitations and that will be the rule for any expiring leases with the government.

HANMI chair Gloria Cavanaugh earlier said the new policy is "akin to economic recklessness."

$25K bail lowered for man arrested for 'ice' possession

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio yesterday granted the Office of the Public Defender's motion to modify the $25,000 cash bail imposed on Nick Valeriano Reyes Jr., a 30-year-old man facing a charge of illegal possession of methamphetamine or "ice."

Kim-Tenorio allowed the release of Reyes to his father, Nicolas, who was found suitable to serve as third-party custodian, upon posting $10,000 cash—40 percent of the $25,000 cash bail.

Status conference will be on Sept. 8, 2015, at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark served as counsel for Reyes. Chief Prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas appeared for the government.

During his arraignment on Monday, Reyes pleaded not guilty.

A complaint of a stolen vehicle led to the car's recovery and the arrest of Reyes and two others for alleged possession and smoking "ice."

Reyes was arrested in Dandan last July 7 for illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Reyes and the car owner's daughter and her male friend were initially arrested last June 24 for allegedly smoking "ice." They were subsequently released, but Reyes was arrested again for illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Saipan Tribune opted to withhold the names of the two others until charges are filed against them.

Police detective Rudolfo Saures Hermosilla Jr. stated in his report that police officers responded to a residence in San Antonio last June 23 after a man complained that his 2013 Toyota Yaris had been stolen.

At 12:17am the following day, a patrol officer found the vehicle at the San Jose Mart in San Jose and arrested Reyes, who was the driver.

The officer also arrested the car's two passengers—the daughter of the vehicle's owner and a man.

According to the officer, all occupants of the car admitted to smoking "ice" prior to going to San Jose Mart.

Hermosilla said that, last June 26, he met with the car owner and released the car to him.

Before releasing the car, Hermosilla saw a black pouch on the passenger seat.

Hermosilla then conducted further investigation and learned from the two occupants of the car that the pouch belongs to Reyes and that they believe that there is "ice" and drug paraphernalia inside it.

Hermosilla said a review of a video footage from the motel where the car owner's daughter brought Reyes and the male friend showed that Reyes was holding the pouch.

Hermossila obtained a search warrant for the pouch, where he allegedly found 0.03 gross grams of crystalline residue in Ziploc baggies, drug paraphernalia, and some items.

Hermosilla said he tested the residue and it came out presumptive positive for "ice." *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Selected Items

Hunter questions opening of Garapan casino

An opinion of the CNMI Attorney General is being sought regarding the opening of a live training casino inside the T Galleria in Garapan.

CNMI resident Glen Hunter wrote a letter "to formally notify" Attorney General Edward Manibusan of "what I believe has been a public declaration of private company's intent to violate CNMI law."

In the letter dated yesterday, Hunter said the "live casino" will be opened inside a shopping center rather than an integrated resort, as required by Public Law 18-56.

Hunter said to his knowledge, P.L. 18-56, which also requires the exclusive casino license holder to set up an "initial investment of $2 billion, to include a casino and a 2,000-room resort," has not been "altered or changed."

"I humbly ask the AG to look into this matter and uphold CNMI law by instructing BSI to abide by the law and make the statutory initial investment of $2 billion prior to attempting to operate a live casino on the island of Saipan," he said.

Hunter added that he "hopes that any attempt to violate local law be met with a cease and desist order."

"Our people have voted twice against casino gambling. Our representatives recently disregarded the past votes in order to legalize casino gaming on Saipan. Their rationale was based on the new development and new investment of $2 billion."

Gaming regulators earlier approved new regulations to allow Best Sunshine International, Ltd. to open a "live training facility" inside the T Galleria while the company constructs a hotel and resort in a nearby lot.

The "live training facility" is essentially a casino that will operate until BSI opens the hotel and casino, also in Garapan.

Viola Alepuyo, one of the legal counsels of BSI, said as far as she knows, BSI is not aware of Hunter's letter.

She also declined to comment on the opening of the live training casino in Garapan. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

DLNR, DFW summarize major concerns on CJMT

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources and its Division of Fish and Wildlife have summarized their major concerns with the U.S. military's environmental impact documents for live-fire training.

The department says the military impact studies repeatedly underestimate the impacts on fish and wildlife species, habitats, and ecosystems, particularly from habitat clearance and noise levels.

Under all the training alternatives proposed for Tinian, there would be the removal of around 1,800 acres of forest and herbaceous scrub habitats that are used by native land birds like the Tinian monarch, the collared kingfisher, Mariana fruit dove, and white-throated ground-dove.

"The [draft environmental impact statement] does not individually address impacts to Mariana Island endemic species and species of special conservation need, which have the potential to be listed as threatened or endangered," the department says.

The proposed actions will prevent the recovery of several threatened or endangered species, including the Mariana fruit bat, Micronesian megapode, nightingale reed-warbler, and Marianas common moorhen, the department also says.

"The military plan to increase their leasehold of CNMI lands to nearly one quarter of the CNMI land base will make it difficult for DLNR and DFW to effectively manage fish and wildlife populations in the CNMI."

Adding up current military-leased lands plus proposed lands on Tinian and the entire island of Pagan, the military would occupy about 24 percent of CNMI land.

On impacts to other natural resources, the department says proposed actions on Tinian will have "irreversible impacts on the environment, in violation of the Tinian lease agreement."

"The proposed amount of clearance of vegetation and wetlands, particularly of rare native limestone forest on Tinian and Pagan, is unacceptable, and proposed mitigation is insufficient or non-existent," the department says.

The department also says the proposed relocation of the "Tinian Military Retention Land for Wildlife Conservation" without providing specific and sufficient details about the relocation is unacceptable.

Under the military's preferred alternative, 7,200 Tinian monarchs—about 8 percent of the total population—will suffer loss of nesting and foraging areas. The impact documents also note unavoidable noise impacts to foraging Mariana common moorhens from large-caliber munitions near the military's proposed "High Hazard Impact" area.

There has been concern from the CNMI's side of the draft impact analysis about the lack of discussion on the benefits and disadvantages of mitigation methods like relocation of bird conservation areas, or the transplanting of coral species.

The military says, though, that mitigation plans won't be finalized until they are spelled out in a "Record of Decision" that finalizes the military's plans.

Pacific tourism numbers surge in Q1 of 2015

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—There was a surge in tourist numbers into the Pacific in the first quarter of this year.

In figures made available by the South Pacific Tourism Organization, nearly 381,000 visited from January through March. The best performing markets were Fiji and Palau, with Palau benefitting from direct flights from China.

Several countries had a drop in numbers: the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

Australian tourists dominated the markets while Chinese tourism was up by two and a half times, with the bulk of Chinese tourists going to Palau.

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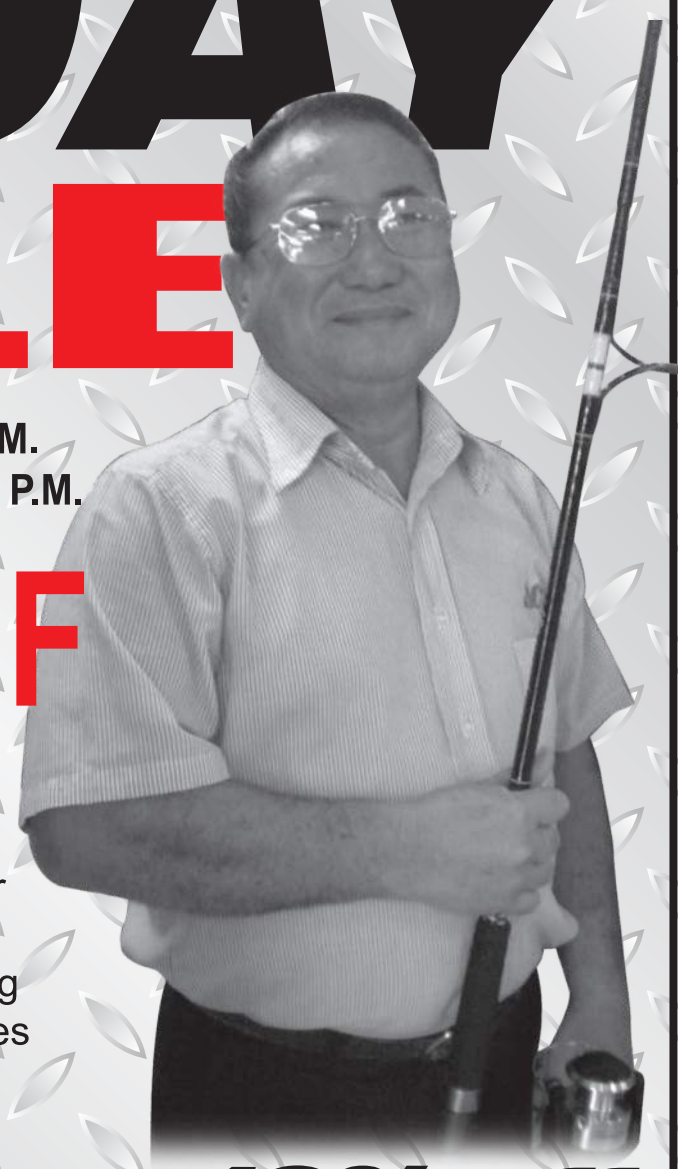

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PH consulate to hold mobile outreach on Saipan, Tinian

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam, will conduct mobile consular services on Saipan from Aug. 13 to 15 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 12pm to 5pm.

It will host a similar outreach on Tinian on Aug. 16, from 9am to 5pm, at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

All of those interested in availing of consular services are advised to prepare the following requirements:

A. Passport renewals for Saipan only

■ Due to the capacity limits of our passport processing equipment, we can only process up to 360 applications over the three-day mission from Aug. 13 to 15, 2015;

■ Please note that only the 360 applicants who had pre-registered during the last consular mission in May 2015 will be processed during this mission;

■ The 360 applicants on the official list are each assigned a specific date and time slot;

■ Make sure that you appear during your scheduled processing time; otherwise you may have to wait until a slot opens up;

■ Those who have to renew their passports and who are not on the official list of 360 applicants to be processed for this mission can still come to pre-register and submit the necessary requirements;

■ Those who pre-register during this August mission will have their applications processed during the next consular mission;

■ Per Department of Foreign Affairs guidelines, the Consular Team cannot extend expired passports unless the holder will be simultaneously processed for renewal;

■ The Consulate General is well aware of the issues faced by our nationals who cannot renew their passports and we are working on solutions to alleviate their situation;

■ The official list of those who have appointment will be announced on Aug. 7, 2015;

B. Passport renewal for Tinian only

■ Applicants for the passport renewal will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis based on the listed names submitted by Rod Cabarles to the Consulate General.

Required documents

Passport applicants are advised to prepare the copies of the required documents for the renewal of passport as indicated below.

■ Requirements for renewal of green Philippine passport:

1. Accomplished ePassport Application form
2. Photocopy of data page of passport
3. Original passport
4. Payment of ePassport Fee ($60)

■ Requirements for renewal of brown/maroon Philippine passport

1. Accomplished ePassport Application form
2. Photocopy of data page of passport
3. Photocopy of birth certificate
4. Original passport
5. Payment of ePassport Fee ($60)

■ Requirements for lost Philippine passport

1. Accomplished ePassport Application form
2. Photocopy of data page of passport (if available)
3. Birth certificate issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority
4. Police Report
5. Notarized Affidavit of Loss ($25)
6. Payment of Lost Passport Fee: $90 (Green/Maroon) or $150 (ePassport)

C. Registration for overseas voting for the May 9, 2016 Philippine elections

All citizens of the Philippines who are abroad, at least 18 years of age on the day of the elections (May 9, 2016), and who are registered overseas voters, may vote for President, Vice President, Senators and Party-List Representatives.

Personal appearance is necessary as the voter registration process requires the intake of a person's biometric data. Applicants should present proof of Philippine citizenship, such as a valid Philippine passport or NSO-issued certificate of birth.

D. For civil registry and notarial services

All applications for civil registry and notarial services will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants are advised to prepare the originals and copies of the required documents as indicated below:

■ Report of Birth ($25)

1. Original Birth Certificate plus five copies
2. If applicable, Original Marriage Certificate of Parents plus five copies
3. Valid Passport of Parents plus five copies; if Passport is expired, valid government issued ID plus five copies
4. U.S. Naturalization Certificate of Parent plus five copies, if parent is already a U.S. citizen at the time of application
5. Affidavit of Delayed Registration of Birth ($25.), if filed more than one month from birth of child
6. For illegitimate children using surname of father, Affidavit to Use Surname of Father ($25)
7. Duly accomplished ROB Form, signed in front of consular officer

■ Report of Marriage ($25)

1. Original Marriage Certificate plus five copies
2. Original Birth Certificate of Filipino spouse plus five copies
3. Valid Passports of both parties plus five copies each; if passport is expired, valid government issued ID plus five copies
4. 2x2 photo (white background) of each of the spouses
5. For parties with previous marriage/s:

a. For U.S. citizens, Final Decree of Divorce plus five copies

b. For Filipino citizens, Annotated Marriage Certificate from NSO showing details of Annulment plus five copies OR Judgment of Philippine Court Recognizing Final Decree of Divorce issued by a foreign court

c. For widows/widower, Death Certificate of deceased spouse

6. Affidavit of Delayed Registration of Marriage ($25), if filed more than one month from celebration of marriage
7. For those whose spouses are non-Filipinos, duly accomplished CFO form
8. Duly accomplished ROM Form signed in front of consular officer

■ Report of Death ($25)

1. Original Death Certificate plus copies
2. Duly accomplished ROD Form

■ Acknowledgements (SPA, General Power of Attorney, Contracts), Jurat (Affidavits)

1. Valid Passport or government issued ID (i.e., driver's license) of signatory plus copy
2. Must sign document in front of consular officer
3. Payment of fee: $25

■ For NBI Clearance Application ($25)

1. Completely accomplished NBI Form (to be provided by the Philippine Consulate Team). Said form must be brought to the local Police Station for fingerprinting. Applicants must ensure that the police officer taking the fingerprints must sign in the "Impressions Taken By" field.
2. One 2x2 photo (to be pasted on the form)
3. Original Valid Passport and two copies (Data and Signature Page of the passport)

■ Authentication/Verification of Employment Contracts

1. Job Order
   Attachments: USCIS Approval
   Company License
   Passport of Signatory (Employer)
2. Special Power of Attorney
   Attachments: Company License
   Passport of Signatory (Employer)
3. Recruitment Agreement
   Attachments: Company License
   Passport of Signatory (Employer)
4. Individual or Group Employment Contract
   Attachments: Company License
   Passport of Signatory (Employer)

Following are the applicable fees for these services:

Document	Authentication Fee	DOLE Verification Fee
Job Order	$25	$10
SPA	$25	$10
Recruitment Agreement	$25	$30
Individual Contract	$25	$10
Group Contract	$25	$30

Please note that all applicants for the above services will be required to photocopy the signed documents after processing.

For questions or clarifications regarding the mobile consular outreach, call the Consulate General at (671) 646-4620/30. ***(PCG Agana)***

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Fire department unit inspects 12 poker arcades for fire code

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services' fire inspection strike force inspected 12 poker arcades on Saipan on Wednesday to check if they comply with local codes.

The 12 were found to have a few minor issues but no arcade was shut down, according to DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde yesterday. He said the arcades were given 15 to 30 days to correct the issues.

Some of the minor issues found included expiration of the fire permit, obstruction of egress (exit route), fire extinguisher not recently serviced, using ceiling as storage, exposed electrical wires, and excessive use of multiple plugs that could overload the circuit.

Gersonde said fire prevention officers would do a follow up and would issue temporary stop orders if the discrepancies are not corrected. He said the establishment will remain shut down until they contact the fire prevention office to make an appointment for inspection.

The unit will do a similar inspection of 12 other poker arcades soon.

The 12 inspected were Ace Poker in Garapan; U-Luck Poker in Middle Road, Garapan; DKK Poker in Kagman III; Sabastian BLDG. Poker in Tanapag; Treasure Island Poker in western Garapan; Cool Poker in Finasisu; Cool Poker in Kagman III; Shirley's Poker in Garapan; U-Luck Poker in western Garapan; Lucky 7 Poker in Susupe; Poker by Big Dipper in Beach Road, Garapan; and Poker across Han Nam Market in Koblerville. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Lions Club to hold induction night

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Lions Club will be having its induction night tomorrow at Kanoa Resort.

The 6pm event will see the joint induction of the two clubs under District 204 Region 2. These are the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club and the Saipan Marianas Lions Club.

This year's SFALC officers are Maria Annamae Adaza as president, Reynado Joson as first vice president, Ariel Terrado as second vice president, Mario Mayuga as secretary, Arceli Lizama as treasurer, Rizally DL Joson as assistant treasurer, Sonia Laserna as tail twister, Federico Ortiz as lion tamer, Arturo Anchita as safety officer, Glicerio "Eli" Arago as membership director, and Anastacia Japson, Vilma Embotorio, Reynaldo Ortiz, and Aurelia Rodriguez as directors.

For the SMLC, officers for the year are Olivia O. Yana as president, Lolita Velasco as first vice president, Guillermo Canape Jr. as second vice president, Ladyvir DLC Canape as secretary, Ellen Delos Santos as assistant secretary, Florenda Miranda as treasurer, Leticia Canching as assistant treasurer, Domingo Dones as auditor, Evangeline Galvez as public relations officer, Remegio Cabulit as lion tamer/custodian, Teresita Tan as lion tail twister, Nelida Atalig as membership chair, Lorna Baro as assistant membership chair, and Alma Famat, Lolita Albarico, Linda Alomia, and Emil Garra as directors.

New members of the clubs will also be inducted.

According to the club, delegates from Guam will be joining the induction, including district governor Daniel Yang, past district governor Goreng Duenas, past district governor Herbie Perez, cabinet secretary Zenaida Cachila, and first vice district governor Linda Tolan.

Saipan Mayor David Apatang will be their special guest.

Those who want to join the Lions Club may contact region chair lion Ladyvir Canape at 989-2545 or zone chair lion Mario Mayuga at 285-1021.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Finding lone wolves before they strike

When we read a recent report from Pew Research Center noting that 53 percent of Americans are "very concerned about Islamic extremism in our country," we chalked it up to irrational fear.

Then came last week's shootings in Chattanooga, Tenn., at both a military recruiting center and a nearby Navy operations support center.

Had 24-year-old Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez not been the perpetrator of the attack that killed five Marines, we might think it simply, tragically a random act of violence.

But Abdulazeez, it turns out, was an Islamic extremist. And it is not irrational for Americans to fear that there are others who, like Abdulazeez, appear on the surface to be a "good kid" or "a great student"—as the shooter was characterized by those who thought they knew him—but in whose breasts beat hearts of darkness.

Indeed, last week's bloodshed in Chattanooga is just the latest jihadi attack on U.S. soil since Sept. 11, 2001.

In 2002, Egyptian national Hesham Mohamed Hadayet killed two Israelis and wounded four others during a shooting at the El Al ticket counter at Los Angeles International Airport. In 2006, Pakistani-American Naveed Haq shot six women, one of whom died, at the Seattle Jewish Federation office.

There were two Jihadi attacks in 2009.

In November, U.S. Army psychiatrist Nidal Malik Hasan shouted "Allahu-akbar" before opening fire in a medical facility at the Fort Hood, Texas, military base, killing 13 people and wounding more than 30 others. And, in June, Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad committed a drive-by shooting at Little Rock, Ark., recruiting office, killing one soldier and wounding another.

In 2013, there was the Boston Marathon bombing, perpetrated by brothers Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, which took the lives of four people. In 2014, an Oklahoma woman was beheaded by aspiring jihadist Alton Noel, who injured another person. That year also witnessed a killing spree in Washington state and New Jersey by Ali Muhammad Brown.

We are confident there was no direct link between jihadist killers Hadayet, Haq, Hasan, Muhammad, Tsarnaev, Noel, Brown and Abdulazeez. But there is no denying that the attacks committed by these apparent lone wolves represent a terrifying pattern about which the American people understandably are very concerned.

That's why we think the Justice Department's Domestic Terrorism Committee—suspended in 2001 as the focus shifted to terrorists outside the U.S., but revived last year—should concentrate its attention on the Islamist extremists within our midst.

That does not mean mass surveillance of the Muslim-American community, the vast majority of whom are law-abiding citizens who offer no succor for those among them who would commit acts of terror. It means ferreting out those who are closeted jihadis, who aim to do the people of this nation harm.

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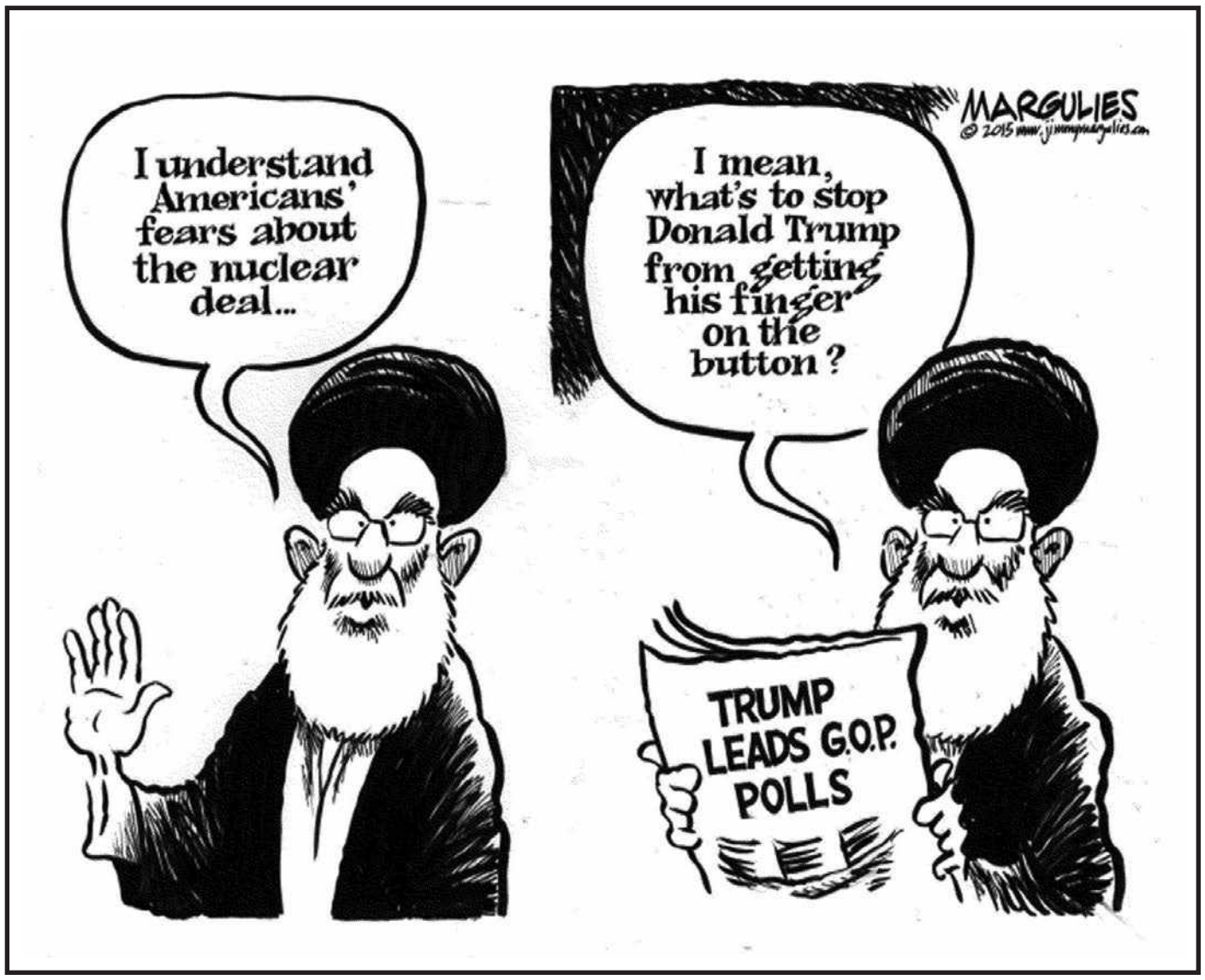
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Philosophy via Facebook? Why not?

By ERIC SCHWITZGEBEL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Academic philosophers tend to have a narrow view of what is valuable philosophical work. Hiring, tenure, promotion and prestige depend mainly on one's ability to produce journal articles in a particular theoretical, abstract style, mostly in reaction to a small group of canonical and 20th century figures, for a small readership of specialists. We should broaden our vision.

Consider the historical contingency of the journal article, a late-19th century invention. Even as recently as the middle of the 20th century, leading philosophers in Western Europe and North America did important work in a much broader range of genres: the fictions and difficult-to-classify reflections of Sartre, Camus and Unamuno; Wittgenstein's cryptic fragments; the peace activism and popular writings of Bertrand Russell; John Dewey's work on educational reform.

Popular essays, fictions, aphorisms, dialogues, autobiographical reflections and personal letters have historically played a central role in philosophy. So also have public acts of direct confrontation with the structures of one's society: Socrates' trial and acceptance of the hemlock; Confucius' inspiring personal correctness.

It was really only with the generation hired to teach the baby boomers in the 1960s and '70s that academic philosophers' conception of philosophical work became narrowly focused on the technical journal article.

Consider, too, the emergence of new media. Is there reason to think that journal articles are uniformly better for philosophical reflection than videos, interactive demonstrations, blog posts or multiparty conversations on Facebook?

A conversation in social media, if good participants bring their best to the enterprise, has the potential to be a philosophical creation of the highest order, with a depth and breadth beyond the capacity of any individual philosopher to create. A video game could illuminate, critique and advance a vision of worthwhile living, deploying sight, hearing, emotion and personal narrative as well as (why not?) traditional verbal exposition—and it could potentially do so with all the freshness of thinking, all the transformative power and all the expository rigor of Hume, Kant or Nietzsche.

Academic philosophers are paid to develop expertise in philosophy, to bring that expertise into the classroom and to contribute that expertise to society in part by advancing philosophical knowledge. A wide range of activities fit within that job description.

Every topic of human concern is open to philosophical inquiry. This includes not only subjects well represented in journals, such as the structure of propositional attitudes and the nature of moral facts, but also how one ought to raise children and what makes for a good sports team. And the method of writing and responding to journal-article-length expository arguments by fellow philosophers is only one possible method of inquiry.

Engaging with the world, trying out one's ideas in action, seeing the reactions of non-academics, exploring ideas in fiction and meditation—in these activities we can not only deploy knowledge but cultivate, expand and propagate that knowledge.

Philosophical expertise is not like scientific expertise. Although academic philosophers know certain literatures very well, on questions about the general human condition and what our fundamental values should be, knowledge of the canon gives academic philosophers no especially privileged wisdom. Non-academics can and should be respected partners in the philosophical dialogue. Too exclusive a focus on technical journal articles excludes non-academics from the dialogue—or maybe, better said, excludes us philosophers from non-academics' more important dialogue.

The academic journal article as it exists today is thus too limited in format, topic, method and audience to deserve so centrally privileged a place in philosophers' conception of the discipline.

Research-oriented philosophy departments tend to regard writing for popular media as "service," which is held in less esteem than "research." I'm not sure service should be held in less esteem, but I would suggest that popular writing can also qualify as research.

If one approaches popular writing only as a means of "dumbing down" preexisting philosophical ideas for an audience of non-experts whose reactions one doesn't plan to take seriously, then yes, that writing is not really research. If, however, the popular essay is itself a locus of philosophical creativity, in which ideas are explored in hope of discovering new possibilities, advancing (and not just marketing) one's own thinking in a way that might strike professionals too as interesting rather than as merely familiar rehashing, then it is every bit as much research as is a standard journal article. Analogously for government consulting, Twitter feeds, TED videos and poetry.

A Philosophical Review article can be an amazing thing. But we should see journal articles in that style, in that type of venue, as only one of many possible forms of important, field-shaping philosophical work.

Eric Schwitzgebel is a professor of philosophy at the University of California, Riverside and the author of Perplexities of Consciousness. *He blogs at the Splintered Mind. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

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A tale of two bosses

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

I was having coffee at a small town cafe. One of the locals had a Chinese tattoo on his arm. Tattoos are ubiquitous in that town. Chinese isn't. So I asked the guy about it. Thus began a powwow about a time-honored rite, teenaged jobs, and the bosses who wound up influencing our careers.

Here's what the guy with the tattoo told me: When he was a teenager he was searching for his first job. He just couldn't kick one loose, though. The market was flooded with fresh graduates but that small town simply lacked the capacity to absorb them. He broadened his search into ever-wider circles. Still no luck. Eventually, there was no stone left unturned except a small Chinese restaurant at the edge of town. This was his last hope. Wonder of wonders, the place hired him.

The proprietor was a Chinese lady who spoke minimal English, but she sure spoke how-to-run-a-restaurant. Instead of being treated like some teenaged know-nothing, which the guy essentially was at the time, he reports that the lady treated him very well. As time went by, he was trained in various duties and took on more responsibilities. It wasn't a high-paying job, but he liked it and it proved to be a good transition from school and into working life as he eventually moved into other jobs.

He was so grateful for the lady's patience and kindness that, a long time later, when he was getting one of his tattoos, he opted for something with a Chinese flavor as a reminder about her and his first job.

I like that story. Here's one of mine:

When I was in high school I had a job in a department store as a luggage salesman. My boss, Jeff, was just two years out of high school, but he struck me as worldly-wise. He wore a mustache and a gold chain, had a motorcycle and a girlfriend, and he was enjoying every beat of the '70s disco lifestyle.

Jeff was a masterful salesman because he was unlike a salesman. He had sort of an action-without-action approach that makes me wonder if some sage had, in a pique of eccentricity, traded his robes for polyester so he could sell Samsonite and ride motorcycles.

Here was my first lesson in the world of commercial communications:

"Never try to persuade anybody," he told me.

"Why not?" I asked.

"Because it's not persuasive."

Thus spoke Jeff.

A lady in the candy department had the hots for Jeff. This assured us of a never-ending supply of free bonbons to eat during our shift. Jeff was wily enough not to leave any evidence around our area, so he disposed of the telltale wrappers by stashing them in random nooks in the brassiere department. The brassiere department, incidentally, had something of a running feud with the sewing notions department, so Jeff would occasionally plant a few wrappers over there, too, in order to keep the crossfire fed. This kept Jeff and me completely out of the line of suspicion. Sun Tzu would have been proud.

As much as I liked Jeff, and the customers liked Jeff, and the ladies liked Jeff, the store manager hated Jeff. The manager was a soft-boiled little fellow who had something to say about everything. You know the type. So you'll also know that Jeff's happy-go-lucky approach to things triggered real resentment.

The manager would periodically sweep by our department so he could find something, anything, to criticize, but instead of getting baited into some petty little drama, Jeff always laughed it off.

Overall, in the great tug-of-war of the working world, Jeff was the rare guy who simply knew when to let go of the rope.

As for me, decades later, working in management, I've had a lot of times when channeling my inner Jeff is what carried the day.

Teenaged jobs might have low pay, but they can have a lifelong payoff.

Quadrilateral agreement

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The U.S. and Japan have signed a security alliance where the latter takes on greater responsibility for her defense. Not sure of the specifics of the agreement. But the Japanese Diet has slowly approved what the prime minister has sought in accordance with such security plan.

The agreement and recent joint exercises with Australia (B52 long bomb flights from Louisiana recently) brings up various legitimate issues as it relates to the planned use of the CNMI for military purposes.

The B52 MAAD exercise included the use of inert bombs in northern Australia. Australia spans the entire Micronesian region! The other B52 base is on Guam. The 44-hour-long bomb mission is a message to China of U.S. and allied readiness to keep vital sea routes in Southeast Asia safe.

Would the various agreements that include international finance and trade still require major relocation of Marines from Okinawa to Guam? Moreover, would this still require use of Tinian and Pagan for "live fire" exercises? The relocation of Marine forces from Okinawa to Guam (8,000 Marines and families to 5,000 troops) makes even more irrelevant the use of additional land for military exercises here.

The security and other forms of agreements between the U.S. and allied countries ought to nullify use of CNMI land for perceived needs. Australia, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, Republic of the Philippines, South Korea, and Japan could work together to ease what seems a defense perimeter area in the two China seas. It's a geopolitical struggle best resolved by eyeing the economic relations all have fostered in recent past.

Most importantly, our country and China can't afford a political war at this juncture. Their economic relations are so massively infused and far more vital in the fastest growing region the world over than a show of firepower. How about a techno war—drones versus drones—so we see who's ahead?

The more we critically probe the essence of the various agreements among allied countries and our national government, the more it weakens the argument against use of CNMI land for Cadillac land and aerial firing ranges. Furthermore, if war should ever break out why would we employ "boots on the ground" when we could easily use "drones" including missiles to paralyze or annihilate the enemy?

"The Philippines and Thailand are critical pillars of America's historic mission in the Asia Pacific. America's alliances with them offer distinctive, yet complementary, paths to achieving it. As a result, they merit a different set of policy priorities," according to a paper prepared by Walter Lohman, director of Asian Studies, Heritage Foundation.

■ Prioritize the effort to help make the Philippines a more fully capable security partner in promoting our mutual interests in the South China Sea;

■ Double foreign military financing for the Philippines, to supplement its already (by historical Philippine standards) major budgetary commitment to its territorial defense;

■ Consider, as necessary, escorting resupply of Philippine-occupied land features, and the deployment of the U.S. Coast Guard to do joint patrols with the Philippine coast guard; and

■ Change its position on the application of the U.S.–Philippines security treaty to cover features currently occupied by the Philippines and under its "jurisdiction."

■ With respect to Thailand, the U.S. should:

■ Continue its full complement of joint military exercises with as little adjustment as necessary;

■ Make clear its interest in a rapid return to democracy, but in more private settings befitting a relationship of such long-standing mutual interest and sacrifice;

■ Prepare to hit the ground running with resumption of full military-to-military contact, to include a doubling of IMET assistance, and high level political dialogue at such time as Thailand returns to democratic rule; and

■ Send an ambassador to fill the vacant post in Bangkok.

Policies set for regional security with these two allied countries would definitely render useless plans to use the CNMI for military purposes. This effort should be limited to Guam who gets to secure more funds for its treasury from both Japan and the U.S.

What economic benefits? Moreover, we've heard of economic benefits spouted by military proponents. I have yet to see quantification of such benefits down to the dollar. So the wild hurl of "economic benefits" is vacuous to which we can't hang our hats on. Understandably, the issue revolves around the SEIS or environmental study.

Admirable, though, the military absorbing arrogant presentations to its DEIS study from residents on Tinian and Saipan. Let's see its technical experts slug it out with the firm retained by the NMI to review its SEIS study.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In support of Mariana Resort & Spa

As a former legislator, I take this opportunity to seek the support of the Inos and Torres administration, the Legislature, and the public for Mariana Resort & Spa's renewal of its soon-to-expire lease agreement with the Department of Public Lands.

I have been doing DPL applications to lease public lands and in the process, I get to review tourist arrival statistics produced by the Marianas Visitors Authority. As a result of my reviews, I also draw the conclusion that the CNMI is losing Japan's tourism market. Japan for the longest period has been leading the arrivals in volume, except for the last five years when South Korea and China have surpassed Japan.

Except within the last 10 years, Japan and the CNMI have had good commerce and tourism relationship—a reflection of the CNMI's mutual engagement—but the CNMI is losing such relationship.

Mariana Resort is one of Japan's pioneers in large investments in the CNMI. It could be the last. Japan started tourism in the CNMI. As a matter of record Japan should be given much credit for the CNMI's economic development and growth. To push Mariana Resort out of the CNMI may be the last straw to end the relationship.

The CNMI's economic policy should embrace those that chose to stay despite major economic crises. The CNMI should allow expiring public land leases with large capital improvements on the public property to continue; as a government entity, it is the right thing to do. The legislative body should review existing applicable economic and public land policies and make sound changes to improve the management of public land leases.

The CNMI seems to find the means to promote and rally for new investments, while at the same time ignoring existing investors that have been the bread and butter of the CNMI. There is something wrong with this paradigm; the equation is not balanced. The CNMI should welcome the newcomers but equally should take good care of those that are here today. Mariana Resort is one of them. Mariana Resort is at the verge of maturing its lease agreement at the age of 40 years. I fully support rekindling Japan's commerce and tourism and rally for its return. I ask those in support to join me in this effort.

I truly believe that Mariana Resort deserves continuity with its lease agreement with DPL. I ask the Inos administration to support Mariana Resort without having to draw much adversarial conditions such as an RFP (request for proposal) for the renewal of the lease agreement. A simple letter should suffice to engage re-negotiation for the second 40 years.

I therefore plead with the governor to reconsider its public RFP position for Mariana Resort & Spa's leased property.

David C. Sablan
Chinatown, Saipan

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English-anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sunday at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Wednesday at 6:00pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Christian Church
Worship Service:
Sunday - 9:00am - 11:00am
Prayer Meeting:
Friday 8:00pm - 9:30pm
Cell Groups
Weeknights 8:00pm - 10:00pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 12, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

A. Samoa citizenship plaintiffs seek full appeals court review

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (The Samoa News/PIR)—Attorneys for the plaintiffs in the U.S. citizenship lawsuit have petitioned the full U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., to review a decision made last month by the three-judge panel of the same appeals court, which ruled that the constitutional citizenship birth on U.S. soil does not apply to those born in American Samoa.

Plaintiffs in the case, led by local resident Leneuoti Tuaua, are five American Samoans and the Los Angeles based non-profit group the Samoan Federation of America. Their petition for a hearing en banc (or full court) was filed Monday, which was the deadline to file such a request after the three-judge panel upheld the lower court's decision.

In their petition, attorneys for the plaintiffs maintain that the Fourteenth Amendment's Citizenship Clause entitles individuals born in American Samoa to citizenship by virtue of their birth "in the United States."

However, they argue that the three-member panel stopped short of decisively interpreting the clause's meaning, instead declining to apply the clause to American Samoa in deference to the views of elected officials from American Samoa.

"That approach contravenes the text and structure of the Citizenship Clause and undermines its historical purpose: to remove the question of birthright citizenship from the political process," they argued.

According to the attorneys, an en banc review is warranted, given the exceptional importance of the Citizenship Clause's meaning to plaintiffs, who are denied citizenship despite their birth in the United States, and to correct the panel's misapplication of the inapposite Insular Cases.

The attorneys say the rationale for en banc review is threefold.

First, although the controlling tools of constitutional interpretation employed by this Court and the Supreme Court all point to one conclusion—that the Citizenship Clause extends birthright citizenship to all who are born on sovereign U.S. soil and owe allegiance to the U.S.—the panel inadequately employed these tools and held only that the Citizenship Clause is "ambiguous."

Additionally, the panel erred by applying inapposite Insular Cases framework to interpret the Citizenship Clause, a framework never before used to evaluate a civil right for which the Constitution expressly defines its geographic scope.

Furthermore, the panel misapplied the Insular Cases, to the extent those decisions apply at all.

"When rejecting that birthright citizenship is a fundamental right, the panel deemed unpersuasive the 'bevy' of Supreme Court cases that emphatically endorse citizenship as fundamental," they argued.

They pointed out that the panel relied instead on a single justice's hundred-year-old dicta that citizenship is an "artificial" right, and on a cursory analysis, uninformed by party advocacy, of foreign law.

The decision also departed from the *King vs Morton* federal case by declining to remand for a factual determination whether the right would be "impractical and anomalous" in American Samoa today.

"Instead, the panel relied on the views of American Samoa's elected officials, a factor even the government insisted was not dispositive," they argued.

They noted that the court frequently considers briefs from elected representatives and state governments in cases of great moment, but such filings cannot be assumed to speak for all people within those jurisdictions—particularly where individual constitutional rights are at stake. ***(Fili Sagapolutele)***

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE GUAM AND COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS MILITARY RELOCATION (2012 ROADMAP ADJUSTMENTS)

On behalf of the Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of the Navy (DON), in cooperation with the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9, U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of the Air Force, has prepared the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation (CNMI) (2012 Roadmap Adjustments). The Final SEIS evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed action of constructing and operating a cantonment area, a family housing area, a live-fire training range complex (LFTRC), and associated infrastructure on Guam to support the relocation of a substantially reduced number of Marines and dependents than was previously analyzed in the 2010 Final EIS for the Guam and CNMI Military Relocation; Relocating Marines from Okinawa, Visiting Aircraft Carrier Berthing, and Army and Missile Defense Task Force.

The Notice of Availability of the Final SEIS was published in the Federal Register on July 17, 2015 EDT/July 18 ChST. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations, and Environment) will announce the availability of its Record of Decision with respect to the proposed Marine Corps relocation in the Federal Register.

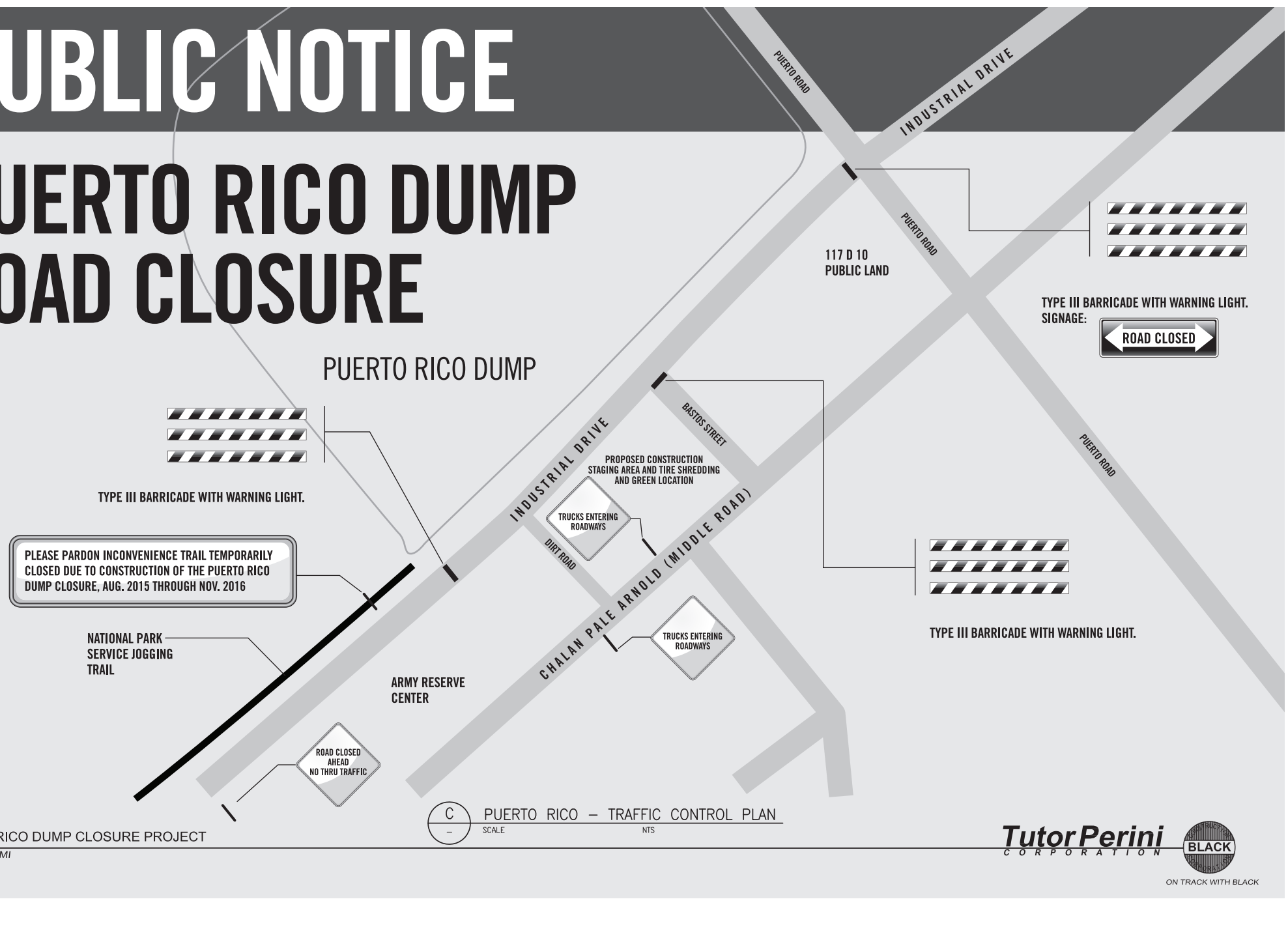
The Final SEIS has been distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, and other interested individuals and organizations. The Final SEIS is publically available at http://guambuildupeis.us/ and at the following libraries:

- University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Government Documents, Tan Siu Lin Building, UOG Station, 303 University Drive, Mangilao, GU 96923
- Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, 254 Martyr Street, Hagatña, GU 96910.

The public may request copies of the Final SEIS Executive Summary by mail from the Joint Guam Program Office Forward, P.O. 153246, Santa Rita, Guam 96915.
For more information, please contact CAPT Joseph Campbell, Joint Guam Program Office at (703) 602-3924. On Guam, contact CDR Daniel Schaan, Joint Guam Program Office Forward, at (671) 339-6156.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUERTO RICO DUMP ROAD CLOSURE



Filipino group in NMI, Guam to join global protest vs China

Today, July 24, Saipan- and Guam-based leaders, members, and supporters of the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance coalition will join a global protest rally against China's invasion, occupation, and militarization of the West Philippine Sea.

The Saipan and Guam protest rallies will be held simultaneously from 12pm to 1pm, across the Sunleader Store in Garapan, Saipan, and at the ITC intersection of North Marine Corps Drive and Chalan San Antonio across from the ITC Building in Tamuning. This will be the third year of global protests in Guam and on Saipan.

"Although there is no Chinese embassy or consulate on Saipan or Guam, our group wants to join the global day of protest to show to the world the Filipino unity, solidarity and patriotism in defending our territories and Philippine sovereignty peacefully," said Dr. Celia Lamkin, USP4GG Marianas chapter chairwoman. "This also is to show our support to the Philippine government which recently sent a delegation to the International Tribunal Law of the Sea in The Netherlands to present the case of the Philippines against China over the West Philippine Sea."

July 24 marks the third anniversary of China's creation of the Sansha prefecture within a vast jurisdiction that includes islands and reefs in the West Philippine Sea.

Since the formation of Sansha, China has increased the number of aggressive actions against the Philippines, including the occupation of the Scarborough or Panatag Shoal, denying access to Filipino fishermen. It has created seven artificial islands in the West Philippine Sea that have resulted in the massive destruction of ecosystems in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), considered to be one of the largest ecosystems in the world.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left: Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson, USP4GG Marianas chapter, and Loida Nicolas Lewis, USP4GG national chairperson.

"Hence, it's not only the Philippines will be affected but the whole world," said Lamkin.

The president of U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance, Rodel Rodis, recently met in Manila with former Philippine National Security adviser Roilo Golez and other leaders of various civic, youth and religious organizations who formed the Movement and Alliance to Resist China's Aggression or MARCHA.

The coalition is expected to rally in front of the China Consulate in Makati City, Philippines. The U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance and the Global Filipino Diaspora Council will be represented by spokesperson and legal counsel Ted Laguatan and members of the USP4GG Washington, D.C.

Filipinos in the different towns of the Philippines are expected to join the protest rallies in their areas as well as motorcades from Cainta to Angono, Rizal, organized by the Philippine Guardians International Brotherhood Taytay and Cainta chapters.

In New York, USP4GG national chair Loida Nicolas-Lewis will lead the rally in front of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in New York City.

"We are calling on the United Nations International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea to stop China from its plan to take over the entire West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), which will constitute the largest territorial heist in maritime history," Nicolas-Lewis said. "We want ITLOS to issue its decision now, not three years from now, before China can consolidate its occupation of Philippine territories."

In San Francisco and Los Angeles, USP4GG organizers scheduled the rally in front of the Chinese Consulate on July 24 from 12pm to 1pm.

Filipino leaders in the United Kingdom, Italy, France, and Romania also announced their plans to organize protest rallies in their host countries.

"We encourage the community to support and join our protest rallies because it is a global issue and not just a Filipino issue," said Lamkin.

She urged Filipinos and other citizens who would like to support the global protest against China and could not join physically to take a selfie of their group with a Philippine flag or a poster saying "China out of the West Philippine Sea" or "China Back Off" and post the pictures on social media.

For more information, visit www.uspgg.org or Facebook.com/StandUp4WestPHSea. ***(USP4GG)***

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or Call 234-2585/235-9020

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building,
Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW-15-RFP-008

Topographic and As-Built Survey for Nativo Drive, Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals for **Topographic and As-Built Survey for Nativo Drive**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulation.

Prior to being awarded a contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

The Request for Proposal and Scope of Work is available on or after **July 17, 2015** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan.

A **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference** is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center on **August 05, 2015.** Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 2:30 p.m. local time **August 12, 2015**. Responses to questions shall be shared by prospective proposers.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than ten (10) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only sub-consultants may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Qualifications of Principal(s) and Staff assigned to the Project – 40%**
2. **Experience and Past Performance of Firm (s) on similar Project – 35%**
3. **Response to Request For Proposal – 15%**
4. **Cost – 10%**

Sealed proposals must be marked "**DPW-15-RFP-008**". For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and five copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **August 21, 2015** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposal must be received by the director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local **August 21, 2015**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, an original and five copies sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 21, 2015** and must be received no later than **September 01, 2015**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be caused for rejection of a proposal.

Architect-Engineer Services, CNMI P/R No. 70-30.3-305

1. Contracts shall be negotiated on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications at a fair and reasonable price.
2. Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determine to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.
3. Fee proposals are solicited; however this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firms. Such fee proposals may be used by the purchasing agency in determining a fair and reasonable contract price.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **JAMES A. ADA**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

Club C offers sports car, $25K as TOC hole-in-one prize

Club C, Saipan's casino gaming and entertainment club, is offering a brand new 2016 Nissan 370Z sports car and $25,000 as hole-in-one prizes in the upcoming Tournament of Champions golf Tournament on Aug. 1 and 2.

"The Tournament of Champions has raised significant funds to help position the CNMI as a premier tourist destination, and we are pleased to be partnering with event organizers to make this year's 20th anniversary celebration of TOC a memorable one," said Peter Stewien, general manager of Club C. "Best of luck to all the players!"

"Club C's impressive hole-in-one prizes unquestionably raises the anticipation and excitement of this year's Tournament of Champions," said Ben Babauta, tournament director. "We are grateful for the company's contribution and acknowledge their commitment to supporting community activities."

The 20th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses on Aug. 1 and 2. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera for fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include other brand new vehicles donated by Atkins Kroll Toyota, Joeten Motors, and Triple J Motors. Pacifica Insurance and Club C are also sponsoring cash prizes as hole-in-one prizes, while Saipan Laolao Golf & Resort is offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize. Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines are also offering airline tickets as hole-in-one prizes.

The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prize for closest to the pin competition with a 25-year-old bottle of Chivas Regal.

Since its inception, TOC has given over $700,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2015 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Hillary Agulto at 236-2571. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(TOC)***

Ben Babauta, Tournament of Champions director, third from right, pose with Club C representatives in front of the 2016 Nissan 370z that will be featured as a hole-in-one prize at the event. The Tournament of Champions will be held on Aug. 1 and 2 at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP15-OPA-116

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 18, 2015 **TIME: 10:00A.M.**

"CNMI SINGLE AUDIT ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 (CNMI/CHCC) FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 18, 2015 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MICHAEL PAI
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB15-DPS-111

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: AUGUST 11, 2015 TIME 10:00 A.M.
E-BID SUBMISSION TO: procurement@pticom.com IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED ON THIS ITB.

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Copies of the Specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commmonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Comissioner of Public Safety

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR MASTER PLANNING SERVICES

BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MASTER PLAN UPDATE
PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-001-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Master Planning Services for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

These services are being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. This service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com by no later than Friday, July 24, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Similar work experience in airport master planning, including, but not limited to needs analysis, design, cost estimating, environmental review and permitting – (25 points)
2. Capability to perform all aspects of the project, such as analysis, planning, environmental evaluations, financial analysis and architectural and engineering design (25 points)
3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the consultant in terms of quality of work experience and services performed for projects, and the consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (10 points); and
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m,. Friday, August 7, 2015.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer
Date: July 16, 2015

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR MASTER PLANNING SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MASTER PLAN UPDATE
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Master Planning Services for the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

These services are being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. This service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com by no later than Friday, July 24, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Similar work experience in airport master planning, including, but not limited to needs analysis, design, cost estimating, environmental review and permitting – (25 points)
2. Capability to perform all aspects of the project, such as analysis, planning, environmental evaluations, financial analysis and architectural and engineering design (25 points)
3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the consultant in terms of quality of work experience and services performed for projects, and the consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (10 points); and
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m,. THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2015.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer
Date: July 16, 2015

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This ad is paid for by the NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate LIHTC's. NMHC may allocate **$3,563,034.00** in LIHTCs for the 2015 program year.

Application for LIHTCs.
Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the LIHTCs should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or through our website at www.nmhc.gov.mp.

Owners/Developers must file completed LIHTC Application along with the **$1,000.00 Application Fee** in NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, August 17, 2015**. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **September 1, 2015**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **4:30 pm of September 15, 2015**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **October 2015** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards
NMHC will notify Owner/Developer of the projects receiving LIHTCs thirty (30) days following the October 2015 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.
For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangement for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

DOL recovers almost $3K in unpaid wages

The CNMI Department of Labor recovered almost $3,000 worth of unpaid wages from various employers. Four separate cases were filed against the employers.

"It is comforting to know that employees trust the CNMI DOL to protect their rights as employees, their complaints are taken seriously, and that their cases will be investigated," Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero said.

According to the information given by Enforcement director Gil San Nicolas, two of the cases were filed in April. One employer paid $700 for unpaid work hours by an employee in September 2014, while another paid $84.70 for unpaid work hours done in February.

Another case was filed last June where the employer paid $768.

The sum of $1,143.89 was paid by another employer for unpaid work hours from May 21 to June 30. This case was filed this month.

A total of $2,696.59 was recovered by the department.

After the investigation, the wages were immediately given to the employees.

DOL said it is determined and committed in its enforcement efforts and that these enforcement efforts promote a good business environment. ***(Fraule-ine S. Villanueva)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Hopwood 8th graders should pick up promotional certificate

All recent 8th grade students from Hopwood Junior High School must pick up their promotional certificate from the main office. The certificate is required for high school registration. Last day to pick up certificates will be on Friday, July 31, 2015. The main office is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 4:30pm.

Hopwood is now accepting registrations for school year 2015-2016. Documents needed upon registration for all students are updated health records (renewed annually), health insurance or Medicaid, and map of residence. For new students, submission of birth certificate and previous school records must also be submitted upon registration. Registration is not final until all documents are submitted to the office.

In addition, free meal applications are now available at the office. For more information, call 664-5075. ***(PR)***

Cleanup brigade set for Aug. 1 at Tank Beach

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Tank Beach on Saturday, Aug, 1, 2015, at 8am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Tank Beach parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(PR)***

Nominees sought for 2015 Bridge of Light awardee

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is now accpeting nominations for the 2015 Bridge of Light Award, which is given each year to honor the accomplishments and sacrifices of one individual who has worked to provide safety for the community, to work to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and to be a "Bridge of Light" for victims and survivors in the CNMI.

Nomination forms are available for pick up and submission at the NMCADSV office in Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai next to New XO Market, or may be emailed upon request and availability through kiki@endviolencenmi.org. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm. The deadline to submit complete nomination forms is on Monday, Aug. 31, 2015.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at (670) 234-5498. ***(NMCADSV)***

San Antonio Middle School notice

San Antonio Middle School is accepting registrations for school year 2015-2016. The following documents are needed upon registration for all students: updated health records (renewed annually), health insurance or Medicaid, and map of residence. For new students, the birth certificate and previous school records must also be submitted upon registration. Registration is not final until all documents are submitted to the office. For more information call 237-3582. Registrations are accepted from 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. ***(PR)***

MHS registration information

Report cards for Marianas High School students are available. Call 237-3205 for more information.

Registration for new incoming students for Marianas High School ends on Aug. 5, 2015. Please call 237-3206 for more information.

Documents required: official transcript/diploma/certification of completion; birth certificate; original updated school entrance health certificate; legal guardianship from the court with seal (if applicable); medical insurance or Medicaid. Copies of all required documents must be attached before your child can be registered. ***(PR)***

Deadline for NCLEX-RN exam prep course

The CNMI Area Health Education Center, through the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute, is sponsoring a preparatory course for the National Council Licensure Examination, or NCLEX, for registered nurses this summer 2015. To qualify for the course, students must have already earned their associate degree in nursing. The deadline to enroll in this NCLEX-RN exam preparatory course is Friday, July 24, 2015.

The CNMI Area Health Education Center will subsidize this preparatory course for U.S. citizens and U.S. green card holders on a first-come, first-served basis. Students must submit a copy of their highest nursing degree and a valid ID, passport, driver's license, or birth certificate for verification upon registration.

The preparatory course dates will run from July 26 to Aug. 30, 2015, from 1pm to 4pm at Building D-1. The preparatory course will be offered at a discounted price of $419.

To register, visit Building P, NMC Saipan; call 234-5498 Ext. 6802, 6809, 6810, 6808; and/or send an email to Orrin Pharmin at orrin.pharmin@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures set

The 2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures will be held Aug. 22 and 29 and Sept. 5, 12, 19, and 26 at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan and will celebrate the cultural diversity of the Northern Mariana Islands, with special emphasis on the indigenous cultures of Micronesia. Cultural groups are encouraged to contact Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Ryan Calvo at rcalvo@mymarianas.com or 664-3210 to participate. ***(PR)***

Agricultural emergency loans now available

Commercial agricultural producers in Guam who were negatively impacted by Typhoon Dolphin may be eligible for Emergency Loans through the United State Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. Eligible producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses to a maximum amount of $500,000 at a low interest rate. Farm Service Agency will consider each loan application on its own merits. Deadline to apply is Feb. 5, 2016. For more information about Emergency Loans, contact the FSA Guam County Office at 472-7568 for an appointment or visit the FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/hi. ***(USDA)***

Marianas Enterprises Limited

is committed to manage clients' construction projects and to provide hospitality services.
We invite interested professionals to apply for the following positions.

Senior Project Manager

Plan, direct, or coordinate, usually through subordinate supervisory personnel, activities concerned with the construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems. Participate in the conceptual development of a construction project and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting, and implementation.

Senior Project Manager Job Duties:

- Confer with supervisory personnel, owners, contractors, or design professionals to discuss and resolve matters, such as work procedures, complaints, or construction problems.
- Plan, schedule, or coordinate construction project activities to meet deadlines.
- Prepare and submit budget estimates, progress reports, or cost tracking reports.
- Inspect or review projects to monitor compliance with building and safety codes, or other regulations. Inspect or review projects to monitor compliance with environmental regulations.
- Plan, organize, or direct activities concerned with the construction or maintenance of structures, facilities, or systems.
- Study job specifications to determine appropriate construction methods.
- Investigate damage, accidents, or delays at construction sites to ensure that proper construction procedures are being followed.
- Prepare contracts or negotiate revisions to contractual agreements with architects, consultants, clients, suppliers, or subcontractors.
- Develop or implement quality control programs.

Skills and Qualifications:

- Knowledge of materials, methods, and the tools involved in the construction or repair of houses, buildings, or other structures such as highways and roads.
- Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation, human resources modeling, leadership technique, production methods, and coordination of people and resources.
- Knowledge of the practical application of engineering science and technology. This includes applying principles, techniques, procedures, and equipment to the design and production of various goods and services.
- Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models.
- Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.
- Knowledge of relevant equipment, policies, procedures, and strategies to promote effective local, state, or national security operations for the protection of people, data, property, and institutions.
- Knowledge of scheduling tools
- Able to speak, red, and write in excellent English and Chinese

Education/Experience needed:

- College graduate and have worked in the related professional field for over 15 years. Prior experience in Saipan or Guam is preferred but not necessary,
- Should have work in the capacity as client representative, engineer, design consultant or contractor.
- An equivalent combination of education and experience. Candidate with fewer years of experience but holds a Masters degree or above will be also be considered.

$78,000 to $120,000/yearly
Salary is commensurate with experience.

Guest Relations Officer

Job Duties:

Act as an introducer to plan and coordinate the provision of friendly, efficient services to guests. Make dining and other reservations for patrons, and obtain tickets for events. Make travel arrangements for sightseeing and other tours. Receive, store, and deliver luggage and mail. Perform office duties on atemporary basis when needed. Pick up and deliver items, or run errands for guests. Arrange for the replacement of items lost by travelers. Act as interpreters or translators when patrons require such services. Perform other related duties as assigned. Perform general administration duties including but not limited to filing, meeting preparation, travel bookings, online research etc.

Qualification Requirements:

Must be a high school graduate or equivalent. Preferably have knowledge of the structure and content of the Korean or the Mandarin language preferred. Minimum two years of customer service or hospitality preferred. Position will be primarily based in our Saipan head office but may be expected to travel between head office and other locations (like Hong Kong, Beijing, Macao, Japan, etc.

$6.05 to $7.00/Hourly

Head of Human Resource

Job Duties:

Human Resource:

- Develop organization strategies by identifying and researching human resources issues;
- Implements human resources strategies by establishing department accountabilities, incl. talent acquisition, staffing, employment processing, compensation, health and welfare benefits, training and development , safety and health, employee relations and retention and labor relations
- Manages human resources operations in Beijing, HK and Saipan offices by recruiting, selecting, orienting, training ,coaching, counseling, and disciplining staff; planning, monitoring and reviewing staff job contributions; maintaining compensation.
- Complies with federal, state and local legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation; anticipating legislation; enforcing adherence to requirements; advising managements on needed actions
- Guides management and employee actions by researching, developing, writing, and updating policies, procedures, and guidelines; communicating and enforcing organization values.

Public Relations:

- Develop PR strategies, campaigns , and initiatives to improve public perception of company
- Coordinate relations across Beijing, HK and Saipan offices
- Prepare and publish newsletter and other company literature
- Respond to information queries from media and the general public
- Develop and maintain corporate image and logos
- Maintain effective working relationships with local government and media
- Develop and launch Internet web pages

Administration:

- Manages the facilities projects
- Purchasing management,
- General affairs, incl. travel, equipment repairing and maintenance, fixed assets management and internal services
- Develop and manages budget, make expenditure analysis

Qualification Requirements
College graduate or above, MBA is preferred but not necessary
have worked in the related professional field for over 15 years

$72,000 to $100,000/yearly
Salary is commensurate with experience.

Interested applicants may send their resume to qixing.yang@imperialpacific.com.cn. For more information, please call 323-9188

SPC launches Pacific Islands Fuel Pricing Manual

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Despite progress to transform the energy systems of Pacific Island countries and territories by increasing the use of renewables, the region's dependence on fossil fuels will not disappear overnight.

This is the message from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community at the launch Tuesday of the first edition of the *Pacific Islands Fuel Pricing Manual*, an information aid to improve understanding among Pacific Island stakeholders of the basic elements of the fuel industry.

The Pacific Island region's fuel industry has an estimated value of $6 billion per year.

This trend is expected to continue to thrive for some time to come, according to SPC director for Economic Development Division, Capt. John Hogan.

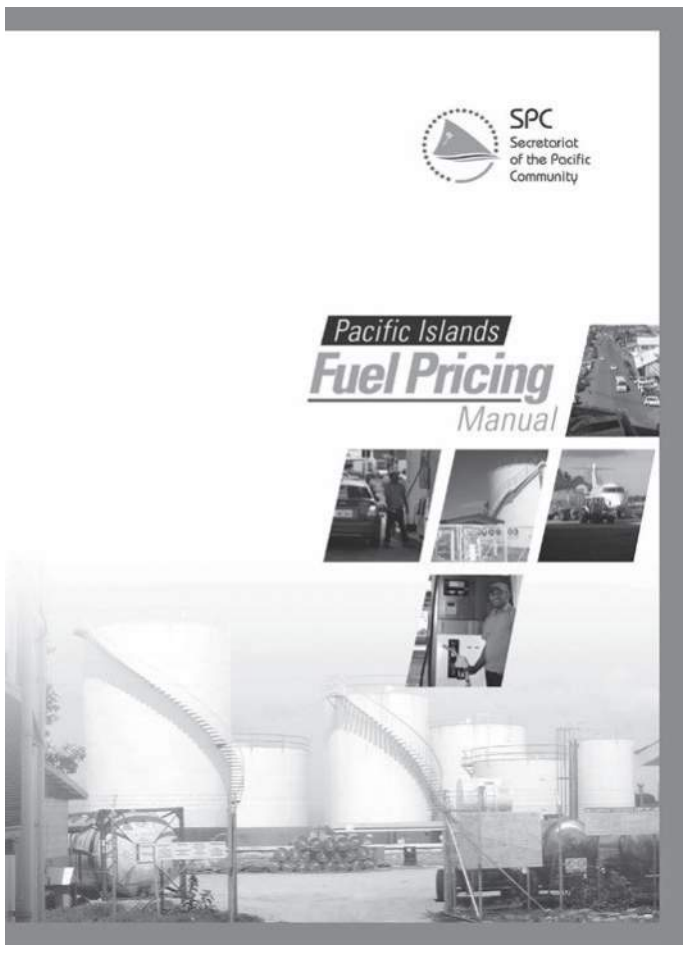
Speaking at the pricing manual launch, held in the wings of the "Transforming Pacific Island Energy Systems" workshop in Honolulu, Hogan said Pacific Island countries and territories will need to continue to plan and manage the fuel industry to ensure that it is cost-effective, safe, and secure.

"At the same time, countries are encouraged to look at ways to individually or collectively negotiate for more cost effective supply and logistics," he said.

The new manual has been prepared to inform and support the work of Pacific Island officials who regulate or monitor the price of fuel in their respective jurisdictions.

"It's a fast changing industry and we hope to provide regular updates through further editions into the future," SPC petroleum adviser Alan Bartmanovich said.

The launch coincides with the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility regional consultation with stakeholders within the Pacific region to assist in finalizing the report of the liquefied natural gas/liquefied petroleum gas study. PRIF expects to publish the LNG/LPG study later this year. ***(LPG)***



Strengthening epidemic preparedness key focus of Pacific health surveillance network

NADI, Fiji–A three-day meeting of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network on strengthening capacity building and preparedness to epidemics and other public health emergencies opened Monday in Nadi, Fiji.

Organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in consultation with PPHSN partners, the meeting gathered over 50 public health laboratory and surveillance officials from across the Pacific.

Surveillance, preparedness and response to epidemics of infectious diseases, such as dengue, are the priorities of the PPHSN network, which will celebrate 20 years of existence next year.

In her opening remarks, the Assistant Minister of Fiji's Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Veena Kumar Bhatnagar, acknowledged the important role of the acclaimed network.

"This meeting provides the opportunity to renew networks and discuss issues and problems that are common to all countries of the Pacific region in combating infectious diseases affecting us," Bhatnager said.

SPC's chief of staff, Patricia Sachs-Cornish, said, "SPC is eager to continue supporting an enhanced preparedness to public health emergencies in view of global trends such as climate change."

Development of national capacities in epidemiology and data analysis, and dissemination for decision making, is also a key strategy of the network.

A newly implemented training and capacity development program for "Strengthening Health Interventions in the Pacific" will be featured at the meeting.

Over 150 Pacific Islands' health professionals from 15 Pacific Island countries and territories have already been trained in surveillance and response to public health alerts through the SHIP program's data for decision making training modules.

Twenty-six of the trained personnel are on their way to graduate from Fiji National University early next year as the first-ever cohort of Epi technicians in the region.

The success of this large-scale training program can be attributed to the engagement and collaboration of many partners of PPHSN: ministries of health of Pacific Island countries and territories, the Pacific Island Health Officers Association, Hunter New England Local Health District in Australia, Fiji National University, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the University of Guam, and SPC.

"SPC is proud of the support it has been able to provide to its islands member through the PPHSN partnership and will continue to do its best to nurture such a precious partnership," Sachs-Cornish said.

The meeting ran until Wednesday, July 22, and was made possible with funding from SPC, the New Zealand Aid Program, the Australian government and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ***(SPC)***

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

COMMONWEALTH
ZONING BOARD

ZONING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Zoning Office will be **CLOSED** on Friday, July 24, 2015, from 11:30 am to 4:30pm, to prepare for renovation and construction activities. Normal operations will resume on Monday, July 27, 2015. We apologize for the inconvenience and we thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,
The Commonwealth Zoning Board

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: **Accountant I**
Opening Date: **July 15, 2015** Closing Date: **July 30, 2015**
Salary: **PL 30/01 - $22,576.96 to PL 30/05 - $27, 437.44 P/A**
(Starting salary will be determined by the disqualification of the appointee.)
Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, July 30, 2015**, OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than July 30, 2015, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For all inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity, lender and employer"

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: **Appliance Technician I**
Opening Date: **July 15, 2015** Closing Date: **July 30, 2015**
Salary: **PL 21/01 - $15, 105.87 to PL 21/09 - $22, 302.94 P/A**
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)
Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

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/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: **Loan Specialist I**
Opening Date: **July 15, 2015** Closing Date: **July 30, 2015**
Salary: **PL 26/01 - $18,584.00 to PL 26/07 - $24, 889.35 P/A**
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)
Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

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/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity, lender and employer"

Business

Greece clears final reform hurdle before new bailout talks

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece's radical left-led government emerged bloodied but alive early Thursday from a key vote in parliament, which overwhelmingly approved new creditor-demanded reforms despite a revolt among hardliners in the main coalition partner.

The reforms to the judiciary and banking systems were the final hurdle the financially-battered country was obliged to clear before it can start talks with its creditors on a third bailout worth around 85 billion euros ($93 billion).

Without the money Greece would face financial ruin and forced exit from the euro currency club.

Lawmakers voted 230-63 in favor of the measures, following a whirlwind debate that ended at 4 a.m. (0100 GMT). Another 5 members of the 300-seat house voted present, a kind of abstention.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras was unable to forestall a second revolt in a week among his own Syriza party lawmakers, but had no trouble passing the draft legislation with the backing of pro-European opposition parties.

Government spokeswoman Olga Gerovasili conceded that there is a clear rift within Syriza, but would not say whether rebels would be expelled.

"From this point on, party procedures will be followed in order to deal with the problem," she said after the vote.

The number of disaffected Syriza lawmakers, who see the reforms as a betrayal of the anti-austerity platform that brought their party to power in January, shrunk slightly compared to last week's similar vote—from 38 to 36. But that is still roughly a quarter of all party lawmakers.

Addressing parliament before the vote, Tsipras said the reforms were a necessary price to pay to keep Greece alive after stormy talks with its creditors nearly collapsed earlier this month.

"We have chosen a compromise that forces us to implement a program in which we do not believe, and we will implement it because the alternatives are tough," he told lawmakers. "We are summoned today to legislate under a state of emergency."

Higher minimum-wage proposals gain some ground on both coasts

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The push for a higher minimum wage gained momentum on both sides of the country Wednesday, with New York embracing an eventual $15 an hour for the state's 200,000 fast-food workers and the huge University of California system announcing the same raise for its employees.

"How we support our workers and their families impacts Californians who might never set foot on one of our campuses," said UC President Janet Napolitano, who oversees 10 campuses, including UCLA and Berkeley. "It's the right thing to do."

The 240,000-student University of California becomes the nation's largest public university to commit itself to the $15-an-hour wage that has become the rallying cry of many labor groups in recent months.

So far, Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley have approved phased-in increases that eventually will take their minimum wage to $15 an hour, or about $31,200 a year. On Tuesday, Los Angeles County, the nation's most populous county, voted to craft a law to do the same over five years.

In New York, the state Wage Board endorsed a proposal to set a $15 minimum wage for workers at fast-food restaurants with 30 or more locations. The increase would be phased in over three years in New York City and over six years elsewhere.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration has the final say, and he has signaled his support. New York would become the first state to single out a specific industry for such an increase. The state minimum wage is now $8.75.

After 2 deaths, Ikea warns of risks with 27M dressers

NEW YORK (AP)—A year after Ikea chests tipped over and fatally injured two boys, the Swedish furniture giant and safety regulators say consumers should keep the furniture—27 million chests and dressers—away from children unless the products are mounted to a wall.

Ikea is offering a free kit to help consumers affix the furniture to a wall. The kit will be available to people who bought chests and dressers above specific heights, including 7 million of Ikea's Malm chests.

"They are unstable when built and used without a wall anchoring device," said CPSC spokesman Scott Wolfson.

Neither the company nor the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission described the move as a recall, but an offer to repair or replace a product is technically a recall. The CPSC said it could not find a record of any furniture recalls this size.

AP

This product image provided by Ikea shows a Malm 6-drawer dresser.

Ikea and the CPSC say two boys, both around two years old, were killed in 2014 after Malm chests that had not been secured to walls tipped over and fell on them. The agency and Ikea say they have received 14 reports of Malm chests tipping over, resulting in four injuries. Ikea is aware of three other deaths were reported from other models of chests and drawers that tipped over. Those deaths were described as happening since 1989.

They say consumers shouldn't use Ikea children's chests and drawers taller than 23 1/2 inches and adult chests and drawers taller than 29 1/2 inches unless they are securely anchored to the wall.

A two-year-old boy in West Chester, Pennsylvania, was fatally pinned against his bed in February 2014 after a Malm six-drawer chest fell on him, the agency and Ikea say, and a 23-month old boy from Snohomish, Washington, died after being trapped beneath a three-drawer Malm chest when it tipped over.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI) GOVERNMENT

RFP15 – RED004
PUBLISHED DATE(S): July 17, 24, 31
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 04, 2015

"LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN"

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of commercial leasing and developing the following public lands (former MPLC building and adjacent lot to the south):

1) Lot 186 E 02, containing an area of approximately 9,127 square meters, more or less, in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as is, and

2) Lot 204 E 01, containing an area of approximately 13,921square meters, more or less, in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as is.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. A non-refundable fee of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (US $3,500.00)** is required to receive an RFP Packet. Payment must be made by certified or cashier's check payable to: ***Department of Public Lands***.

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by mail. The request must be received by DPL no later than July 31, 2015, 4:30pm ChST, reference **"RFP15-RED004 LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN"**, and include a certified or cashier's check payable to Department of Public Lands for the amount of US$3,500.00. RFP packets issued to proposers will be numbered for identification and shall not be copied for distribution to other parties. Requests and payment should be sent to the address shown below.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, July 31, 2015 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Mr. Pedro A. Tenorio, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: pete.tenorio@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a "Question and Answer" format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

/s/ PEDRO A. TENORIO
Secretary, Department of Public Lands

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS
This ad is paid with HUD Funds by NMHC

NMHC IFB 2015-008
Ground Maintenance Services for NMHC's Scattered Properties in Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the ground maintenance services for its properties in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, beginning Monday, July 20, 2015, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., during regular business hours, except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan on Tuesday, July 28, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the scattered properties owned by NMHC to be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visits are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements, and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2015-008**. For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time Friday, August 14, 2015**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, August 14, 2015**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Friday, August 14, 2015**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Tuesday, August 25, 2015**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **10:00 a.m., local time, Wednesday, August 26, 2015**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time on Friday, August 14, 2015.**

All labor on this project shall be paid no less that the minimum wage rate of $6.05 per hour which took effect on September 30, 2014 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $0.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968, which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extend feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in the CNMI.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a reasonability determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section NMIAC 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

The Commonwealth Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined by the government to be in the best interest. All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

Bronster Fujichaku Robbins

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Welcomes

Kenneth S. Robbins

as a Director of the firm and is pleased to announce that

Catherine L. Aubuchon

and

Sunny S. Lee

have become Directors of the firm

Our Founding Partner

John T. Hoshibata

is now Of Counsel to the firm

Although our name has changed, our commitment to providing legal services of the very highest quality remains unchanged.

Our primary areas of service remain complex commercial litigation, trust & estate litigation, employment, professional malpractice, anti-trust and real estate litigation.

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Nation

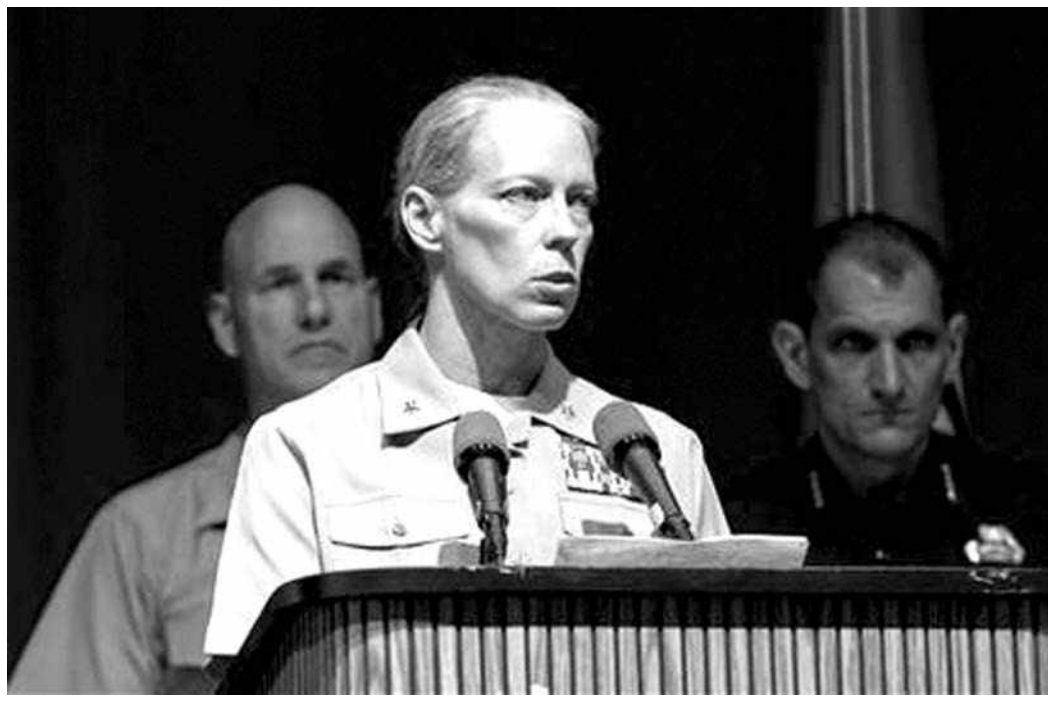
Picture of Tennessee shooting emerges: 3-5 minutes of terror

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP)—Twenty Marines and two Navy corpsman were in the middle of an otherwise mundane task, just checking their equipment after a training mission, when the silver Mustang convertible came barreling through the gates of the reserve center on the banks of the Tennessee River.

The driver blasted his way through that facility for the next three to five minutes, officials said during a Wednesday news conference that provided the most complete account yet of how four Marines and a sailor were killed. The shooter's motives remain unclear to investigators, even nearly a week later.

Muhammad Abdulazeez made his first stop at a military recruiting office about 7 miles away, sending recruiters there scrambling for cover from the hail of gunfire that left the front windows pocked with bullet holes. Abdulazeez never left the driver's seat, staying only briefly before moving to his next target.

After plowing his rented car through the gates, and with Chattanooga Police chasing close behind, the gunman got out of the car and stormed into the building. He was ready for a shootout: Abdulazeez wore a vest with extra ammunition. One gun was found in his vehicle; an assault rifle and a handgun were found on him.



AP

Rear Adm. Mary M. Jackson, the commander of the Navy Southeast Region, speaks at a news conference in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Wednesday, July 22, 2015, about the shootings that left four Marines one sailor dead.

A service member inside the building saw Abdulazeez approaching and fired at him. The gunman shot back and then proceeded inside.

Once inside, he fatally wounded Petty Officer 2nd Class Randall Smith and "continued to shoot those he encountered," FBI Knoxville Special Agent in Charge Ed Reinhold said at a news conference.

As police followed the gunshots, he then walked out the back door into a gated motor pool area, where troops tried to scramble over a fence to safety. It was there that the remaining four were killed: Staff Sgt. David Wyatt, Sgt. Carson Holmquist, Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Sullivan and Lance Cpl. Squire Wells.

When the shooting first started, troops inside the building went room to room to rush their colleagues to safety, said Maj. Gen. Paul W. Brier, commanding general of the 4th Marine Division. Then, some rushed back into the fight.

Two guns belonging to service members were recovered at the scene, he said; shots were fired from at least one. It's unclear if the gunman was hit by one of those weapons, Reinhold said. The military will investigate whether the service members were authorized to have those weapons.

In the motor pool area, two Marines tried to "provide cover" while their comrades tried to escape over the fence, Reinhold said.

Both Reinhold and Brier declined to elaborate further on how the troops engaged Abdulazeez.

"I can tell you that our Marines reacted the way you would expect," Brier said.

At one point, Abdulazeez tried to run back into the building. When he did, Chattanooga officers confronted him. A shootout erupted. One police officer was wounded; Abdulazeez was killed.

When asked about the possibility of friendly fire, Reinhold said it appears that all of the victims were killed by the same weapon.

Friends and neighbors recalled a happy, polite young man. But a picture has emerged showing Abdulazeez was troubled in his last days: He abused drugs and alcohol, stared down the possibility of bankruptcy and couldn't find a job. He failed a drug test in 2013, getting him fired from a job at a power plant, which prompted personal writings soon after lamenting what a failure he had been, according to his family.

Federal charges including hate crimes for accused shooter

WASHINGTON (AP)—The man accused of killing nine black church members in Charleston, South Carolina, was motivated by racial hatred and a desire to commit a "notorious attack" when he opened fire inside a historic house of worship last month, according to a federal grand jury indictment issued Wednesday that makes him eligible for the death penalty.

The 33-count federal indictment charges Dylann Roof, 21, with hate crimes, firearms violations and obstructing the practice of religion in the June 17 shootings at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The charges announced Wednesday by Attorney General Loretta Lynch are in addition to state murder charges brought against Roof days after the shooting.

The Justice Department has not decided whether it will seek the death penalty against Roof, nor whether its prosecution will come prior to the state's case. But in mounting a federal case, Justice Department prosecutors made clear that they consider the killings rooted in racial hatred and the type of attack that their hate-crime statutes are designed to cover.

AP

In this June 18, 2015, file photo, Attorney General Loretta Lynch speaks at a news conference at the Justice Department in Washington.

Because South Carolina has no state hate-crime law, federal charges were needed to adequately deal with a defendant who "decided to seek out and murder African-Americans because of their race," Lynch said.

The state's case has so far been sparse in its details, but the federal grand jury indictment accuses Roof—who is white and had appeared in photos waving Confederate flags—of setting his sights for months on murderous attacks on blacks because of their race and of wanting to carry out violence in a black church.

The indictment describes Roof's use of a personal manuscript in which he decried integration, used racial slurs to refer to blacks and disparaged them as inferior to whites. He planned for months to increase racial tensions throughout the country and seek retribution for perceived wrongs he thought had been committed against white people, Lynch said.

When it came to picking a target, the indictment says, he purposefully selected the historic church—a centuries-old religious institution rooted in South Carolina history—"in order to make his attack more notorious," according to the indictment. Survivors told police that he used racial insults during the attack.

Video rekindles debate about police treatment of blacks

HEMPSTEAD, Texas (AP)—When Sandra Bland refused to put out her cigarette, the police officer flung open her car door and tried dragging her out of the vehicle. She asked at least four times why she was being arrested and got no answer. When she told him she had epilepsy, he shouted, "Good!"

The tense dashcam video of Bland, a 28-year-old black woman, getting pulled over by a white Texas state trooper for not signaling a lane change renewed the national debate Wednesday over how police treat blacks and outraged some critics of law enforcement who saw a motorist who was squarely within her rights.

Bland's traffic stop drew special attention because she was found dead in her jail cell three days later, and family and supporters continue to dispute that she hanged herself with a plastic garbage bag, as authorities have concluded.

The video of the traffic stop in rural Waller County drew more than 1.2.million views on YouTube, less than a day after the Department of Public Safety made the footage public. But a range of experts, including former law enforcement officials and civil rights attorneys, say the video is not a clear-cut case of an officer overstepping his authority in the face of an agitated motorist.

"Believe it or not, sometimes you can't just look at the video and tell," said Phillip Lyons, a former police officer and current dean of the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

The state trooper pulled over Bland on July 10, when she was at Prairie View A&M University, a historically black college, to interview for a job at her alma mater.

The traffic stop swiftly escalates into a shouting match after Encinia tells Bland she seems "irritated" and asks her to put out her cigarette. When Bland protests—"I'm in my car, why do I have to put out my cigarette?"—Encinia orders her on the street and opens the door to drag her out when she doesn't comply.

Republican contenders scrambling to adjust to 'Trumpism'

AIKEN, S.C. (AP)—Donald Trump is on his way to the Mexican border, the latest event in a presidential campaign some of his rivals would like to dismiss as a sideshow—a "carnival act," as one puts it. But he's been stealing their thunder for days and left them scrambling to adjust to a race dominated by a bombastic longshot.

The billionaire developer and reality TV host will be in Laredo, Texas, on Thursday, highlighting his unyielding stance on immigration. The trip will revisit a topic that has stirred criticism that has now grown into open hostility from some Republican contenders.

From party heavyweights like Jeb Bush to recently announced candidates like Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, the contenders are confronted by Trump's hair-trigger habit of calling out his critics by name, vilifying the GOP establishment and roiling the debate over immigration and more.

In Washington, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry was asked about Trump's planned trip on to Laredo. He snapped, "I hope he can find the border because I'm not sure he's ever been there before."

This, after Perry denounced Trump's campaign as a "cancer on conservatism" and "barking carnival act" in a speech that laced into "Trumpism: a toxic mix of demagoguery, meanspiritedness and nonsense that will lead the Republican Party to perdition if pursued."

Indeed, the insults flying between Trump and his fiercest critics have been caustic. Sen. Lindsey Graham called him a "jackass" a day earlier and Trump responded by calling Graham an "idiot" and giving out the senator's cellphone number, jamming his voice mail.

Others in the field have been more measured, though showing signs of growing exasperation. Bush, in particular, has conspicuously tried to avoid alienating Trump's supporters—"good people" with "legitimate concerns"—even while branding Trumps' rhetoric "ugly" and "mean-spirited."

The feud is unfolding as the candidates prepare for the first GOP debate, a venue to which the top 10 in national polling will be invited out of a swollen lineup of 16. Although they are all accomplished, few are well known nationally, and "Trumpism" isn't making it easier for them to get their messages out at a time when mere name recognition can drive popularity in polling.

Asia

Feds: Two men traveled to PH for murder-for-hire plot

NEW YORK (AP)—Two North Carolina men were arrested Wednesday on charges that they carried out a contract killing, allegedly leaving a woman dead on a garbage pile in the Philippines before each collected a portion of their $35,000 fee.

An indictment unsealed in U.S. District Court in New York City charged Adam Samia and Carl David Stillwell in the early 2012 killing of a Filipino woman.

Prosecutors said the woman, identified in court papers only as "Victim-1," was shot multiple times in the face before she was dumped on a pile of trash.

"After their contract killing, they allegedly covered their tracks by conspiring to launder the blood-money back to the United States," Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in a release.

He said the men were arrested in Roxboro, North Carolina, after the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration played a key role in the probe, with cooperation from local and federal law enforcement officials.

Samia, 41, and Stillwell, 47, were scheduled to make an initial appearance Thursday in federal court in Greensboro, North Carolina. It was not immediately clear who will represent them in court.

Each was charged with conspiracy to kidnap and murder in the Philippines, discharging a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence and conspiracy to launder the proceeds of committing murder-for-hire. If convicted, they could face life in prison.

The person who allegedly hired the men was not named in the indictment, nor was the reason.

Prosecutors said Samia advertised himself as a "personal protection/security industry" professional who had worked as an "Independent Contractor" for clients in the Philippines, China, Papua New Guinea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo. They said he claimed he had training in tactics and weapons, including handguns, shotguns, rifles, sniper rifles and machine guns.

Stillwell's resume claimed he had training and experience in the field of information technology and had worked at a North Carolina firm that provides firearms training, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said the men agreed in 2011 and early 2012 to carry out contract killings in exchange for monthly salaries and bonus payments for each victim.

Myanmar gives 153 Chinese life in jail for illegal logging

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A court in northern Myanmar sentenced 153 Chinese nationals to life in prison on Wednesday after convicting them of illegal logging in a case that has already strained relations with Beijing.

Two Chinese minors received 10-year sentences for the same offense, while a woman in the group received an additional 15 years on a drug charge, said Khin Maung, the lawyer for the defendants. Life terms are generally treated as 20 years in Myanmar's judicial system.

Myanmar's army in January arrested the Chinese and some Myanmar nationals in Kachin state near the Chinese border, also seizing 436 logging trucks.

Chinese loggers in Myanmar send wood to China even though timber exports were banned in 2014. Analysts say the timber can be exported because the loggers make deals with local ethnic minority warlords and, according to some critics, local Myanmar military officers.

"As China has risen to become the world's biggest importer of timber products, it has also emerged as the leading destination for illegally logged timber, especially logs and lumber," the British non-profit researcher, the Environmental Investigation Agency, noted in a 2012 report. It said the quantity of timber shipped from Myanmar to China had declined over recent years, but smuggling was continuing and still a threat to Myanmar's forests, among the richest in Southeast Asia.

The loggers were sentenced under a 1963 law calling for jail terms of 10 years to life for anyone who steals or otherwise misuses or abuses public property. Khin Maung said one of the two judges in the court in the Kachin state capital of Myitkyina announced that the maximum penalty was being applied because "he deemed effective punishment should be meted out."

He said his clients have 60 days to consider an appeal.

The verdict quickly attracted attention in China, where the defendants have been a cause celebre since their arrests, with calls for the Chinese government to apply pressure for their release.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Official: Mitsubishi may extend WWII apology to others

TOKYO (AP)—An outside director of Mitsubishi Materials said Wednesday that the company hopes to apologize to former British, Dutch and Australian World War II POWs, and also reach an amicable agreement with Chinese forced laborers, following a landmark apology to American POWs earlier this week. "If there is such an opportunity, we will do the same apology," Yukio Okamoto told foreign media, saying the POWs brought to Japan were subjected to inexcusable labor conditions. "What other companies will do, we don't know. ... Ours is one of those who tortured POWs most, so we have to apologize." Okamoto, a former diplomat, was among company officials who delivered an apology to surviving POWs and family members on Sunday in Los Angeles for about 900 Americans forced to work in Mitsubishi mines and factories.

Suicide bomber kills 19 people in north Afghanistan market

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber attacked a market crowded with shoppers Wednesday in northern Afghanistan, killing at least 19 people and wounding 38 amid other Taliban assaults in the area, authorities said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the powerful blast in Faryab province's Almar district, but suspicion immediately fell on the Taliban. Overnight, there had been an Afghan military operation targeting the insurgents in the same district. The attack happened on a weekly shopping day for the area, meaning the market teemed with shoppers and soldiers protecting it when the bomber detonated his explosive vest, police said.

South Korea's growth slowest in more than 2 years

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's quarterly growth slowed to the lowest in more than two years as a severe drought hit agriculture and an outbreak of Middle East respiratory syndrome sapped consumption. The economy expanded 2.2 percent in the second quarter over a year earlier, the Bank of Korea said Thursday. That's the lowest since the first quarter of 2013. Asia's fourth-largest economy eked out 0.3 percent growth from the previous quarter. The bank said private consumption turned negative as spending on services dropped while agricultural output plunged due to a drought.

World

Cuban dissidents feel sidelined as the US focuses on state ties

HAVANA (AP)—In the seven months since the U.S. and Cuba declared detente, American politicians have flooded Havana to see the sights, meet the country's new entrepreneurs and discuss the possible end of the U.S. trade embargo with leaders of the communist government.

Their agendas have also featured an increasingly conspicuous hole—the spot once occupied by U.S.-backed dissidents who then sat at the center of Washington's policy on Cuba.

According to an Associated Press count confirmed by leading dissidents, more than 20 U.S. lawmakers have come to Cuba since February without meeting with opposition groups that once were an obligatory stop for congressional delegations.

Advocates of President Barack Obama's outreach to Cuba say it's a more intelligent way to push for democratic reform on the island. After decades of fruitlessly trying to strengthen the government's opponents, they see diplomatic engagement as the best method for persuading Cuba it's time to open the political system and keep loosening control of the centrally planned economy.

That's left many dissidents feeling increasingly sidelined and abandoned as both countries celebrate milestones like Monday's opening of embassies in Havana and Washington.

"The only thing they want is to open up business, the embassy," said Berta Soler, leader of a faction of the Ladies in White, one of the island's best-known dissident groups. "Whenever someone high-level came from the United States before, they always made time to meet with us before getting on the plane (back home), and that's not happening."

Legislative staffers say Cuban officials have made clear that if Congress members meet with dissidents, they will not get access to high-ranking officials such as First Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel, the man expected to be the next president of Cuba who has met with U.S. politicians like House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont.

Iraqi officials say Baghdad market bombings kill 26 people

BAGHDAD (AP)—A pair of car bombs exploded Wednesday at crowded popular markets in predominantly Shiite neighborhoods of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, killing at least 26 people and wounding 58, authorities said.

The first explosion took place in the impoverished neighborhood of al-Bayaa in southwestern Baghdad, a police official said. The blast killed at least 18 people and wounded 36, the official said.

Later Wednesday, a second car bomb detonated in the northeastern neighborhood of al-Shaab, killing at least eight people and wounding 22, police said.

Hospital officials corroborated the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to brief journalists.

AP

Civilians inspect damages a day after a car bombing hit the eastern neighborhood of New Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, July 22, 2015.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks. The Islamic State militant group frequently targets Shiite areas across the country, as well as military checkpoints and government installations. The radical Sunni group seeks to destabilize the Shiite-led government in Baghdad and targets those they view as apostates. They hold roughly a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria in their self-declared "caliphate."

WORLD BRIEFS

Kiwi DNA study reveals bird lost color vision

BERLIN (AP)—Scientists say they have sequenced the genome of the brown kiwi for the first time, revealing that the shy, flightless bird likely lost its ability to see colors after it became nocturnal tens of millions of years ago. Inspection of the kiwi's DNA also showed greater diversity than in other birds in genes responsible for smell, indicating that New Zealand's national animal can probably detect a wider range of odors—another useful adaptation for a species that prefers living in the dark. The study, by scientists at University of Leipzig, Germany, and the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, was published Thursday in the journal Genome Biology.

Russian capsule docks with International Space Station

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan (AP)—A Soyuz space capsule carrying a Russian, an American and a Japanese docked smoothly Thursday with the International Space Station. The capsule connected to the orbiting laboratory about 250 miles (400 kilometers) above Earth at 0245 GMT. The rocket had lifted off from a Russian manned launch facility in Kazakhstan about 5 hours and 45 minutes earlier at 2102 GMT Wednesday. The rocket reached orbit about 15 minutes after launch and circled the Earth four times before heading for the space station.

Turkey briefly blocks access to Twitter over bombing images

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkey briefly blocked access to Twitter on Wednesday to prevent images of Monday's deadly bombing from being broadcast and to stop Twitter users from calling for protests against the government, which they blamed for not doing enough to prevent the attack, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported. The dispute highlighted the tensions in Turkey after the suicide bombing Monday in the southeastern border city of Suruc, which killed 32 people and wounded scores. Turkish officials say the Suruc bombing is part of a retaliation campaign by the Islamic State group for the government's crackdown on its operations in Turkey. Access to Twitter in Turkey was restored a few hours later Wednesday. A government official said Turkey had asked Twitter to remove 107 URLs with images of the bombing's aftermath. Twitter had removed about 50 of the URLs before it was blocked.

Off The Wall

Now out: Beer out of live lobsters

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—A Maine brewer is offering a quicker way to consume two of the state's summertime staples: beer and lobster.

Oxbow Brewing is serving up beer brewed with live Maine lobsters and a dash of sea salt.

Brewmaster Tim Adams says the lobsters were placed in a mesh bag and suspended in a kettle full of boiling wort during the brewing process. He says the lobsters add a subtle brininess and sweetness that lobster fans will recognize.

The beer is a saison-style beer brewed in collaboration with a brewery in Parma, Italy. It is 4.5 percent alcohol by volume and is available on a limited basis. The beer is served in the brewery's tasting room.

Adams says the lobsters that were cooked in the brewing process were later eaten.

AP

Maine-based Oxbow Brewing is offering a beer brewed with live lobsters and a dash of sea salt.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

California woman offers home as prize in dessert contest

ANTIOCH, Calif. (AP)—A Northern California woman is offering a sweet deal on her 1906 Craftsman home in Jackson. She's trading it for a great dessert. The Contra Costa Times reports that Erin Allard is hosting a dessert contest with the 2,267-square-foot century-old home as the grand prize. The four bedroom, two bathroom home has been restored and is valued at $390,000. She says she opted for the competition because it can take months to sell a home in rural Jackson. Allard, who is a licensed real estate agent, has spent weeks checking details and legalities to make sure the competition goes off without a problem. The contest will be judged by a panel of food experts. Those looking to apply have until Sept. 7 to submit a $100 entry fee and a million-dollar recipe.

Albuquerque woman tracks down late husband's stolen truck

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—An Albuquerque, New Mexico, woman says she took the law into her own hands to find her late husband's stolen truck and help capture the alleged thief herself. KOAT-TV reports Ana Dean boxed in the accused car thief Tuesday after driving around Albuquerque with her grandchildren in search of the stolen Ford F-150. According to Dean, she loaded up her grandchildren, prayed that her husband's spirit would lead them to the truck and found it in a parking lot. Dean says after she entered the key code into the truck's electronic lock, she used her own car to block the entrance to the parking lot and called 911. Police arrived and arrested 25-year-old Jasen Mulvaney on a stolen vehicle charge.

Police: Man drove drunk, carried box of beer on lawn tractor

WASHINGTONVILLE, Pa. (AP)—State troopers say they had to use a rope to corral a man who was driving drunk on his lawn mower with a box of beer. The Daily Item reports 25-year-old Tyler Anspach also threatened a trooper after he was arrested on July 13 while driving his tractor in Montour County, about 100 miles northwest of Philadelphia. Police received a call that night about an agitated, mower-driving man making threats. Responding troopers said they could smell alcohol on Anspach and saw him stumble. Authorities say his blood-alcohol content was .21 percent. That's more than twice the legal limit for drivers. Anspach is charged with DUI, disorderly conduct and related offenses.

Police: Man who called 911 sought help with air conditioner

INDIANA, Pa. (AP)—State police say a western Pennsylvania man with a penchant for making unnecessary emergency calls recently complained of chest pains so he could ask medics to help him fix his air conditioner. Twenty-six-year-old Travis Turner, of Indiana, Pa., was charged Wednesday with obstructing emergency services and disorderly conduct. Troopers say Turner has called Indiana County 911 dispatchers or the state police 63 times in the last three years for minor or harassing complaints. In December, they charged him. The complaint later was withdrawn and Turner was warned to stop making such calls. But police say Turner called 911 again Sunday afternoon. They say that when an ambulance arrived, Turner said he didn't have any medical issues but needed help with his air conditioner.

Report of lion has Milwaukee residents on the lookout

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A report of a lion roaming a Milwaukee neighborhood has police and others on the lookout. Milwaukee police say a woman reported seeing a lion Monday afternoon in her north side neighborhood. Police Chief Edward Flynn says his officers were given cellphone video of an animal that appeared to be a "lion-ish creature." Officers checked the neighborhood, but didn't find anything. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was notified and dispatched an employee to check it out. Flynn says it was "theoretically possible" a wild cat had made its way south from northern Wisconsin. The DNR says a mountain lion, or panther, is one of three wild cats native to the state. The report of a lion sighting has lit up social media with its own hashtag #mkelion.

UK lawmaker defends making 14 cent expenses claim

LONDON (AP)—A British lawmaker is defending claiming 9 pence ($0.14) on expenses for a short car journey, saying such claims may look "odd" but the mileage adds up. Conservative lawmaker Rob Wilson said the 322-meter (352-yard) journey in March 2014 was a "constituency engagement." He also made several other small claims for short journeys, including 13 pence for a trip in his car to attend a business meeting. Wilson told Metro News on Tuesday he was an active lawmaker who often met with local voters. He said many of his trips are fairly short, but add up because he takes a number of them each week. Beginning the end of July, British lawmakers will get a 10 percent pay increase from 67,060 pounds ($104,271) to 74,000 pounds ($115,000) a year.

Science & Technology

Robots do check-in and check-out at cost-cutting Japan hotel

SASEBO, Japan (AP)—From the receptionist that does the check-in and check-out to the porter that's an automated trolley taking luggage up to the room, this hotel in southwestern Japan, aptly called Weird Hotel, is "manned" almost totally by robots to save labor costs.

Hideo Sawada, who runs the hotel as part of an amusement park, insists using robots is not a gimmick, but a serious effort to utilize technology and achieve efficiency.

The receptionist robot that speaks in English is a vicious-looking dinosaur, and the one that speaks Japanese is a female humanoid with blinking lashes. "If you want to check in, push one," the dinosaur says. The visitor still has to punch a button on the desk, and type in information on a touch panel screen.

Henn na Hotel, as it is called in Japanese, was shown to reporters Wednesday, complete with robot demonstrations, ahead of its opening to the public Friday.

Another feature of the hotel is the use of facial recognition technology, instead of the standard electronic keys, by registering the digital image of the guest's face during check-in.

The reason? Robots aren't good at finding keys, if people happen to lose them.

A giant robotic arm, usually seen in manufacturing, is encased in glass quarters in the corner of the lobby. It lifts one of the boxes stacked into the wall and puts it out through a space in the glass, where a guest can place an item in it, to use as a locker.

AP

A receptionist dinosaur robot performs at the new robot hotel, aptly called Henn na Hotel or Weird Hotel, in Sasebo, southwestern Japan, Wednesday, July 15, 2015.

The arm will put the box back into the wall, until the guest wants it again. The system is called "robot cloak room."

Why a simple coin locker won't do isn't the point.

"I wanted to highlight innovation," Sawada told reporters. "I also wanted to do something about hotel prices going up."

Staying at Henn na Hotel starts at 9,000 yen ($80), a bargain for Japan, where a stay in one of the nicer hotels can easily cost twice or three times that much.

The concierge is a doll-like hairless robot with voice recognition that prattles breakfast and event information. It cannot call a cab or do other errands.

Japan is a world leader in robotics technology, and the government is trumpeting robotics as a pillar of its growth strategy. Robots have long been used here in manufacturing. But interest is also high in exploring the potential of robots in human interaction, including helping care for the elderly.

Robotics is also key in the decommissioning of the three reactors in Fukushima, northern Japan, which went into meltdowns in 2011, in the worst nuclear catastrophe since Chernobyl.

One area Henn na Hotel still relies on human beings is security.

The place is dotted with security cameras, and real people are watching everything through a monitor to make sure guests stay safe and no one makes off with one of the expensive robots.

"And they still can't make beds," said Sawada, who has also engineered the rise of a popular affordable Japanese travel agency.

TECH Q & A

How to keep mobile devices secure and their data backed up

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: My Google Android tablet computer is getting pop-up ads that urge me to download free apps from Google Play (an online app store for devices using the Android operating system). Is there a way to disable these pop-ups?

Also, I recently noticed that my tablet has an app I don't recall having downloaded, called Clean Master. Is this app helpful or should I disable it? Where can I learn more about it?—Kathy Finkel, Miami

A: There are several fake pop-up ads that claim to be from the Google Play store. Google says these pop-ups can be eliminated by changing the settings in your tablet's Google Chrome browser.

To prevent pop-up ads from being displayed by Chrome, go to menu, then settings, then site settings. Choose pop-ups, then turn them off.

To clear Chrome of previously viewed browsing data that might contain the pop-ups, go to menu, then settings, then "advanced privacy." Click "clear browsing data." Or, to completely clear all Chrome data, go to settings, then applications. Choose Chrome, then click "clear data."

Clean Master is a legitimate Google Android app that eliminates unneeded software files that were created by apps. It also scans your tablet for malicious software and identifies duplicate photos you've stored. See tinyurl.com/mzkwjkd.

Q: When I replaced my iPad with a newer version, I transferred the settings from the old device to the new one by using a backup of the original iPad that was stored in my online iCloud account. Can I now delete my old iPad backup in order to free up iCloud storage?—Denise Dailey, Orange Park, Fla.

A: Yes, since you've used the backup to update your new iPad, and no longer use the old one, there's no reason to keep the backup file for the original device. For details on how to remove a backup from iCloud, see tinyurl.com/nsx5mtm.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Life & Style

'I Am Cait' debuts as a docuseries with a broader purpose

NEW YORK (AP)—It's the next step in the biggest celebrity story of the year.

It's the long-awaited debut of Caitlyn Jenner's docuseries charting her new life as a transgender woman.

Fittingly, "I Am Cait" (premiering Sunday at 8 p.m. EDT on E!) opens with the former Bruce Jenner, her ample tresses in huge rollers, at home getting hair-and-make-up treatment as she beholds a giant blowup of her bombshell Vanity Fair cover that followed her April interview with Diane Sawyer.

Yes, Jenner's transition from Bruce to Caitlyn has been a highly orchestrated spectacle, with "I Am Cait" the latest phase of the campaign. And, typical of celeb-reality shows, there isn't a scene in this first of eight episodes that doesn't seem stage-managed to push the starry uber-narrative along.

Even so, there is something more substantial going on here. A gratifying measure of authenticity manages to bypass the celebrity trappings.

Jenner's mother and two sisters help. Delivered to Jenner's seaside California compound for their first encounter with her as a woman, they seem refreshingly like regular folks who are genuinely focused on a family member they love and support, never mind all the lights and cameras there to capture every moment.

"It's going to be so difficult for me to think of you as 'she,' and say 'Caitlyn' when I want to speak with you," her mother says. "It's going to take some getting used to, but I want to do what you want."

At the other end of the authenticity scale are stepdaughter Kim Kardashian and her husband, Kanye West. They are seen in a cameo appearance that plays as unintended comic relief, with Kardashian never doffing her floor-length coat (she blames her modesty on her pregnancy, yet it smacks more of, "I don't show my body except for my own projects") and with West explaining that his shoelaces are untied because they're unnecessary since his shoes are really slippers ("the laces are sort of after the fact").

Kardashian takes the time to survey Jenner's closet full of new women's fashions. Then she and West make their hasty exit.

Such interludes undercut the dignity of Jenner's challenges, and make what she is going through arguably less relatable to an audience that needs to relate.

On the other hand, fame claims attention, and the celebrity machine for Caitlyn Jenner, including "I Am Cait," has been impossible to miss. With "Cait," she will have a weekly pulpit and a guaranteed flock to whom she knows how to deliver her message loud and clear.

AP
This 2015 image provided by courtesy of E! shows Caitlyn Jenner in the first official promotional trailer for the new documentary series, "I Am Cait," in Southern California.

"The tremendous amount of support that I've gotten has been overwhelming, but you also have to realize that it's not this way for everybody," she takes pains to point out.

More than once, she cites the lack of support from family, friends and outsiders experienced by far too many in the trans community, as well as the high murder rate and many suicides.

Jenner says she relates: "I've had some very dark moments in my life. I have been in my house with a gun and said, `Let's just end it right here.'"

"People are dying over this issue," she says. "I feel a tremendous responsibility here, because I have a voice, and there are so many trans people out there who do not have a voice."

At the hour's end, Jenner heads to San Diego (switching cars twice to lose pursuing paparazzi) to meet with the mother of Kyler Prescott, a transgender teen who took his own life in May.

"Even with the full support of the family, it's still a hard journey," Kyler's mother says of transgender youngsters.

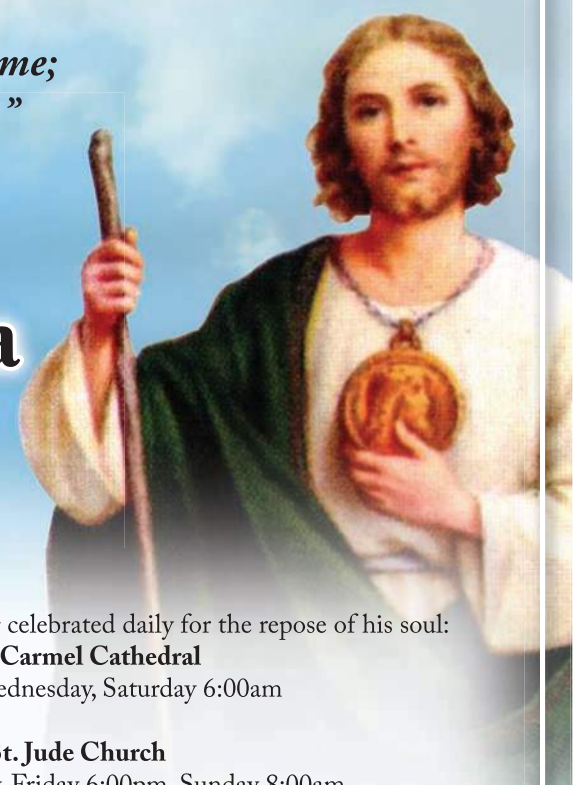
The visit to the Prescott home is presented as a drop-in by Jenner, but, however calculated, it serves as powerful evidence for why she's concerned.

"What I want to do is just be able to create understanding, so the next person doesn't have to be like me," Jenner says.

Despite disruptions by a Kardashian brand of faux glitterati, "I Am Cait," at least in its first week, stays true to Jenner's stated higher purpose.

Death and Funeral Announcement

"I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
He delivered me from all my fears."
Psalm 34:4



†Jesus San Nicolas Cabrera

"Jesus Mulatu"

DOB: November 10, 1939
DOD: July 21, 2015

He now joins his:

Parents: †Vicente Reyes Hocog and †Consolacion San Nicolas Hocog
Parents In-Law: †Juan Salas Deleon Guerrero and †Francisca Ramos Deleon Guerrero
Cherished Wife: †Florida Deleon Guerrero Cabrera
Loving Daughter: †Lucia Ana Cabrera Acebo

His peaceful spirit and loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his children:
Barbara C. and Juan Jose Ch. Santos and Children
Jesse James DLG. Cabrera, Children, and Grandchildren
Prescillia DLG. Cabrera and Children
Marian C. and Lysander B. Tudela and Children
Joan DLG. Cabrera and Daughter
Lourdes C. and Alexander M. Villazon and Children
Mary Magdalene DLG. Cabrera and Son
John Diego DLG. Cabrera

He is survived by numerous Uncles, Aunties, Brothers, Sisters, In-laws, Cousins, Nephews, Nieces, and Godchildren.

Mass of Intentions are being celebrated daily for the repose of his soul:
Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 6:00am

St. Jude Church
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 6:00pm, Sunday 8:00am

Daily Eucharistic celebrations will continue until August 07, 2015

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, July 27, 2015. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora de la Paz Memorial Chapel to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:15am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Interment Services will be at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Children and Families of the late
+Jesus San Nicolas Cabrera and
+Florida Deleon Guerrero Cabrera

Madonna feels like Picasso, says art has no expiration date

NEW YORK (AP)—Madonna thinks artists deep into their careers should stop if they don't have anything more to say. But at 56, the singer says she still has things to talk about, and in short, she feels like Pablo Picasso.

"I like to compare myself to other kinds of artists like Picasso. He kept painting and painting until the day he died. Why? Because I guess he felt inspired to do so," she said. "Life inspired him, so he had to keep expressing himself, and that's how I feel."

Madonna released her self-titled debut album in 1983, and her latest album, "Rebel Heart," earlier this year. She said the key to sticking around is her continual desire to inspire others.

"I don't think there's a time, a date, an expiration date for being creative," she said. "I think you go until you don't have any more to say."

The pop icon will launch her Rebel Heart Tour on Sept. 9 in Montreal. The tour includes more than 60 shows across North America, Europe, Australia and Asia.

"The theme I really truly explore in this show more than anything is love and romance," she said in a phone interview from her home in New York City last week. "I want people to walk out like they're feeling inspired and like they've seen something they've never seen before (and) felt something they've never felt before."

AP

In this Feb. 8, 2015 file photo, Madonna arrives at the 57th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Comedian Amy Schumer, whose new movie "Trainwreck" opened impressively at No. 2 with $30.2 million last weekend, will open for three Madonna shows in New York.

"She's a role model for women, and I am too, and I think it's a good match," said Madonna, who added that the idea to bring Schumer on board came from the singer's management team. "I love her and ... I just thought, `That's interesting.' (I'll) try something new and different rather than the usual run-of-the-mill—have a band, have a DJ. It's definitely a new thing. I hope it works—fingers crossed."

Madonna says picking the set list for her upcoming tour has been hard, mainly because she wants to sing her newest songs but also satisfy her longtime, die-hard fans.

"I realize I have 32 years of other songs, so I have to pick and choose. I sit there for weeks and weeks and weeks trying to figure out which of my old catalog I want to do," she said. "It's a puzzle that we have to put together `cause thematically the songs—the old and the new—they have to go together; sonically they have to go together."

She's even picky about the costumes onstage.

"What people wear, from their footwear to the buttons on their jacket, is all very important to me," she said.

China returns passport to Ai Weiwei, who plans London trip

BEIJING (AP)—Artist and government critic Ai Weiwei has gotten his passport back four years after it was confiscated by Chinese authorities and plans to visit Germany for a medical checkup and to see his young son.

Ai posted an Instagram photo Wednesday of himself holding a Chinese passport with the caption, "Today, I got my passport." Ai's supporters shared the artist's post and cheered the news.

Ai's representative Darryl Leung confirmed the passport had been returned, and said Ai planned to visit Germany, where he will have a checkup and to see his son, who has been living abroad for the last 11 months.

Ai was detained by authorities for about three months in 2011 but not charged. His design firm was later slapped with a $2.4 million tax bill, which he fought unsuccessfully in Chinese courts. The persecution is widely seen as punishment for Ai's outspokenness against the ruling Communist Party and its government. He has long irked Beijing by using his art and online profile to draw attention to injustices in China.

When he was released, he was placed under a travel ban. It was partially lifted in 2012 that allowed Ai to travel domestically, but authorities kept Ai's passport on the grounds that he remained under investigation on suspicion of pornography and illegal exchange of foreign currency. Ai dismissed both charges, and he has not been indicted on either charge.

Chinese authorities often deny passports to dissidents who might embarrass the ruling Communist Party overseas.

Ai's work has gotten much attention worldwide, making him one of best-known Chinese dissidents. His work was exhibited often outside China in the past four years, although he could not attend.

Upset over his passport confiscation, Ai placed a bouquet of fresh flowers in a bike basket outside his Beijing studio and uploaded a photo of the flowers to his Twitter account on Nov. 30, 2013.

He said the daily ritual would last until his right to travel was restored. On Wednesday, he noted it was the 600th day of his floral protest when the passport was returned.

Britain's Royal Academy of Arts said Ai would travel to London for a major exhibition of his work in September. That is a month before President Xi Jinping is to make a state visit to London, and Chinese authorities may have not wanted Ai's absence to make headlines.

"This is wonderful news for Ai Weiwei, his family and for artists worldwide," said Royal Academy director Tim Marlow. "We are delighted to announce that he will be joining us as we finalize the installation of his exhibition."

Ai's work is very popular in Britain. In 2010 he filled a vast hall at the Tate Modern gallery with 100 million ceramic sunflower seeds. Visitors were initially invited to walk or lie on them, but after a few days the ceramic dust was judged a health hazard and the exhibit was cordoned off. It still attracted large crowds.

Before his detention, Ai had spoken out about a number of national scandals, including the deaths of students in shoddily built schools that collapsed during a massive earthquake in 2008.

The government has blacklisted him from any mention in state media, and he is not allowed to post anything on China's social media.

AP

In this March 24, 2015 file photo, Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei walks near a playground outside a shopping mall in Beijing.

Cosby's embattled lawyer remains chair of Temple trustees

PHILADELPHIA (AP) -- Bill Cosby, once the very public pride of Temple University, parted ways with the school last year amid allegations that he had drugged and sexually assaulted women. Now that his own words show behavior that was at least unsavory, his lawyer is feeling heat for continuing to serve as the chairman of the university's board of trustees.

In deposition testimony taken a decade ago and made public this month, Cosby acknowledged giving quaaludes to women with whom he wanted to have sex—adding evidence that his lawyer, Patrick O'Connor, knew that Cosby had behaved in a way that could reflect badly on the university.

The president of the university's faculty union is calling for O'Connor, currently chairman of the trustees, to step down, but university officials are standing behind O'Connor. A half dozen trustees contacted by The Associated Press wouldn't comment on the situation, though one, Joseph W. Marshall 3rd, expressed "full support" for O'Connor. Experts are split on whether O'Connor's work for Cosby constituted a clear conflict of interest.

"In my experience, the highest standards of ethical behavior and the best interest of Temple have always guided the chairman's leadership and relationship to the university," Temple President Neil Theobald said in a statement this week.

Temple is a public university with a history of helping underprivileged students from Philadelphia—such as Cosby—do better in life.

Cosby was the public face of the school for decades. He was a student there in the 1960s, left school to find fame as a comedian and actor and later returned to earn his degree.

Temple was always the academic home for the celebrity who championed education. He became a Temple trustee in 1982. According to a review of minutes, he attended just one board meeting over the next 32 years, but he was an active booster who wore Temple shirts on his 1980s his sitcom "The Cosby Show."

He stepped down from the trustees board in December as public pressure grew when more than two dozen women came forward accusing him of drugging and sexually assaulting them. He didn't give his customary graduation speech this year.

The first public accusations came more than a decade ago from Andrea Constand, a Temple employee who sued Cosby and later settled for undisclosed terms.

Publisher plans no future editions of Cosby bio

NEW YORK (AP)—No revisions or future editions are planned for a disparaged Bill Cosby biography, the publisher told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Simon & Schuster vice president and executive director of publicity Cary Goldstein told the AP that no paperback has been scheduled for Mark Whitaker's "Cosby" and that no changes will be made in the e-book or hardcover, which came out last September to positive reviews but was soon heavily criticized for overlooking the many allegations against Cosby, 78, of sexual assault.

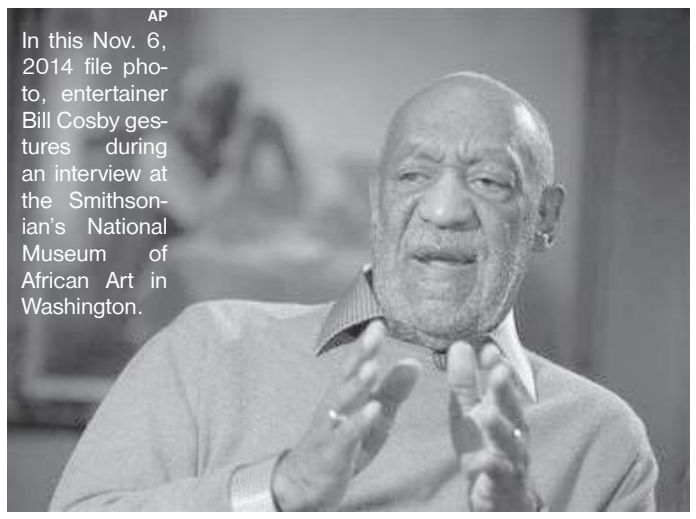
Goldstein said there are no plans to pull the book entirely, although that decision seems unlikely to be needed. "Cosby" has sold poorly in recent months and the hardcover ranked No. 350,880 on Amazon.com's best-seller list as of late Wednesday afternoon. The only hardcovers available on Amazon were from third-party sellers, while the e-book ranked No. 301,470 on Amazon's list for Kindle purchases.

Earlier Wednesday, Simon & Schuster told the AP that because of "recent events" it had pulled blurbs from Billy Crystal, Mary Tyler Moore and other celebrities from dedicated web pages on Amazon, Barnes & Noble.com and other retailers. Moore's quote had read: "If I was America's `sweetheart'—turning the world on with a smile—then Bill Cosby was and still is our `best man.'" Crystal had called the book "A revealing, honest look at my favorite comedian."

Others praising "Cosby" included Jerry Seinfeld, David Letterman and Wynton Marsalis. Goldstein said that representatives from some of the celebrities had contacted Simon & Schuster about removing their blurbs, but declined to cite specific names.

On Tuesday, filmmakers confirmed that Cosby had been cut from a documentary about black stuntmen.

More than two dozen women have come forward in recent months to accuse Cosby of molesting them. His agents have disputed many of their accounts, and he has not been charged with a crime. In court documents obtained by The Associated Press, Cosby admitted to using Quaaludes to drug women before sex.



AP

In this Nov. 6, 2014 file photo, entertainer Bill Cosby gestures during an interview at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art in Washington.

Sebastian Junger writing book on troops returning home

NEW YORK (AP)—Sebastian Junger's next book will continue his reporting on veterans, this time on what happens when they return home.

Hachette Book Group imprint Twelve told The Associated Press on Wednesday that its plans a May 2016 release for Junger's "Tribe." The book is a sequel to "War," which drew upon his time with U.S. troops stationed in Afghanistan in 2007-2008. "Tribe" will focus on stresses that veterans face after completing their service.

According to Twelve, Junger will note the "irony" of some veterans missing war and that many aspects of PTSD have only appeared in recent decades.

HBO signs ex-ESPN personality Bill Simmons to exclusive deal

NEW YORK (AP)—HBO says it has struck a multi-year, multi-platform deal with the multi-faceted Bill Simmons.

Under the deal, which begins in October, HBO will be Simmons' exclusive television home, the network said Wednesday.

Among other projects, Simmons will host a weekly talk show premiering next year. It will feature stories and guests from across the sports and cultural landscapes.

He will also have a production deal to produce content for the network and its digital platforms, delivering video podcasts and features. In addition, he will consult with HBO Sports.

A top personality at ESPN until they parted ways in May, Simmons has served as a sports columnist, TV host and analyst, and best-selling author. He was also the founding editor of the Grantland.com website.

Lambert sings at small club 2 days after announcing divorce

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country star Miranda Lambert jumped on stage and sang at a small club in Nashville, Tennessee, two days after announcing her divorce from husband Blake Shelton.

The Grammy-winning singer was all smiles on Wednesday night as she joined her friend and singer Ashley Monroe in singing, "Heart Like Mine," which she co-wrote with Monroe.

The show was a preview of Monroe's forthcoming album, "The Blade," and country artists including Vince Gill and Phillip Sweet of Little Big Town also populated the small club.

Lambert, 31, and Shelton, 39, announced their divorce Monday after four years of marriage. Lambert spent most of the evening singing along from the crowd, until Monroe invited her up to participate in her encore performance.

Lambert and Shelton are among country's most popular singers. Both pick up scores of awards annually.

AP

In this April 7, 2013 file photo, Blake Shelton, and Miranda Lambert, right, accept the award for song of the year for "Over You" at the 48th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas, Nev.

LeBron James' company scores Warner Bros. TV, movie deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeBron James is setting his sights beyond the basketball court.

The NBA star and his company, SpringHill Entertainment, have signed a content creation deal with Warner Bros. that includes potential projects in film, television and other digital properties.

Warner Bros. Chairman and CEO Kevin Tsujihara announced the partnership Wednesday.

James says connecting with his fans and "telling meaningful stories" have always been his passion. He's the executive producer of the Starz show "Survivor's Remorse," and also referenced his video project "Uninterrupted" as examples.

SpringHill Entertainment CEO Maverick Carter added that he wants the company to be a "leader in the original content-creating space."

Beyond his basketball and producing career, James also recently appeared as himself in the Judd Apatow/Amy Schumer comedy "Trainwreck."

AP

In this Wed., July 15, 2015 file photo, NBA player LeBron James, of the Cleveland Cavaliers, accepts the award for best championship performance at the ESPY Awards at the Microsoft Theater, in Los Angeles.

Mom's helpful hints become criticism in girlfriend's ear

DEAR ABBY: I'm frustrated about how to connect with my young adult son's 18-year-old girlfriend. He told me she has a bad relationship with her divorced parents, so he's hoping we can bond.

A problem that comes up frequently is, she's so anxious to show me how skilled and knowledgeable she is, she misses any tips and techniques I try to subtly teach her. They live together in another state, so our weekend visits at each other's homes seem to amplify the problem.

I'll give you an example: When I removed ice cubes from an ice tray, I ran water over the bottom briefly before twisting the tray. She laughed like I was clueless and said, "You don't have to do that, just twist the tray!" I replied that the water helped release the cubes more cleanly "because of the physics of the warmer water." She teared up, left the room and told my son (who repeated it to me) that I was being critical of her.

I have expressed appreciation for her, and my son has reassured her of my intentions, but I'm getting tired of tiptoeing around her issues. How can I help her understand that she can learn from me without it meaning that I think any less of her?

ON EGGSHELLS IN MONTANA

DEAR ON EGGSHELLS: It might be a good idea to quit trying to mother or teach this young woman anything unless you are specifically asked, because it appears she's not interested in learning from you.

From where I sit, you not only were not critical of her, but the opposite was true of what happened in that kitchen. If she hadn't laughed at you—ridiculed you—for the way you emptied the ice tray, you wouldn't have felt it necessary to explain your technique. So take a step back and stop trying to help her, because it's obviously not appreciated.

DEAR ABBY: I have new downstairs neighbors. While they appear to be pleasant in most circumstances, I cannot ignore the fact that the wife cries inconsolably in their bedroom three or four times a week, late at night. I never hear any yelling or disruption that leads up to this, just loud sobbing in the bedroom that keeps me up several times a week. I don't think she's being abused, but I do think she might be depressed.

Can you think of any kind way to send her to my therapist up the street for some help? Stick a business card in their door anonymously? Bring it up more directly?

UP ALL NIGHT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR UP ALL NIGHT: Talk privately with the woman and tell her you are concerned about her because you have heard her crying. Do not ask her why, but if she volunteers, listen to what she has to say. She may need a grief support group or, as you suggested, a therapist. If either of those is the case, you should suggest it.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

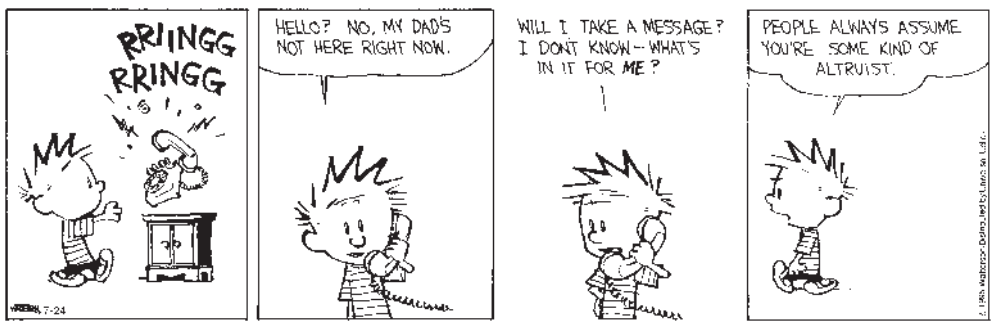
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


RRINGG RRINGG
HELLO? NO, MY DAD'S NOT HERE RIGHT NOW.
WILL I TAKE A MESSAGE? I DON'T KNOW -- WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?
PEOPLE ALWAYS ASSUME YOU'RE SOME KIND OF ALTRUIST.

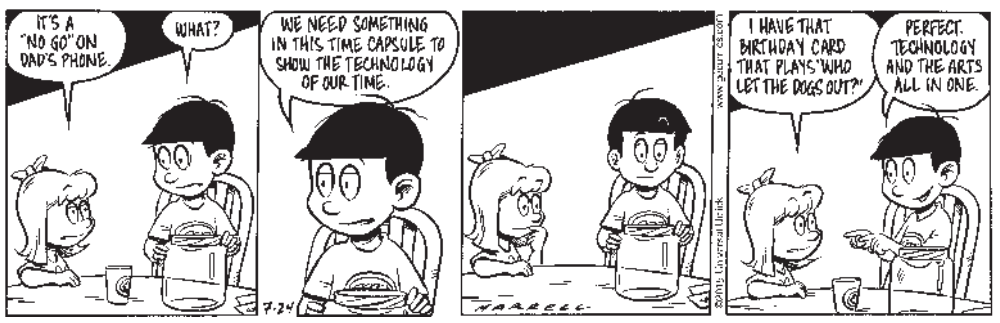
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

COUGH
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE COULD USE A CHECKUP!
HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN WAITING JUST OUTSIDE THE FRAME TO JUMP OUT AND SAY THAT TO ME?
JIM DAVIS 7-24

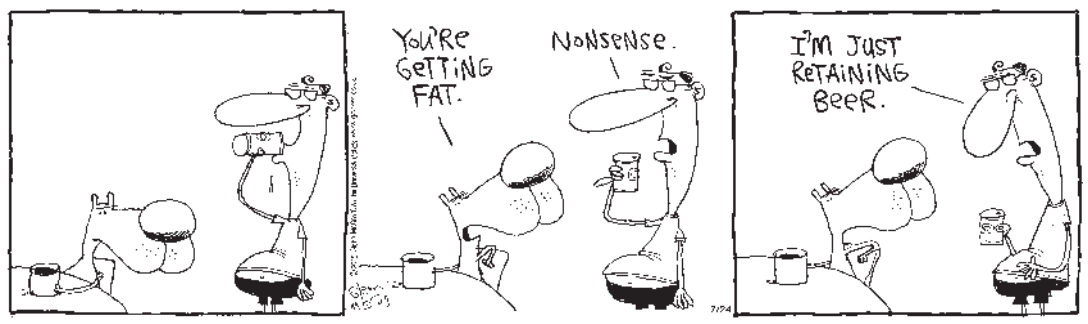
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IT'S A "NO GO" ON DAD'S PHONE.
WHAT?
WE NEED SOMETHING IN THIS TIME CAPSULE TO SHOW THE TECHNOLOGY OF OUR TIME.
I HAVE THAT BIRTHDAY CARD THAT PLAYS "WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?"
PERFECT. TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS ALL IN ONE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Degrade
6 Lousy
9 Matterhorn, for one
12 Made on a loom
13 Oprah's network
14 Kin of alt. sp.
15 Ransacks
16 Swaggering conduct
18 Plump
20 Capri or Wight
21 "Eureka!"
23 Slithery swimmer
24 Clan emblem
25 Melville's Billy
27 Beelzebub
29 Nicole Polizzi's nickname
31 Vinegary
35 Language of Sri Lanka
37 Commotion
38 Deceive
41 Showbiz job
43 Uncivilized
44 Mimic
45 Mumbai native
47 Fencing thrust
49 Marble type
52 Table scrap
53 "Le Coq —"
54 Bottom
55 Pigpen
56 Hearty brew
57 Figure of speech

DOWN
1 Puncturing tool
2 Greet the bad guys
3 Guacamole base
4 Son of Adam and Eve
5 Follow naturally
6 Drop the ball
7 Off
8 "CSI" evidence
9 Seaman's "Stop!"
10 Tureen accessory
11 Preface
17 Girl in "Peanuts"
19 Make obscure
21 Tummy muscles
22 Attila, for one
24 — -tac-toe
26 Grandparents, often
28 Legitimate
30 Neb. neighbor
32 Transport to Oz
33 Lupino of movie lore
34 Intimidate
36 Snub
38 Mafia bigwigs
39 Dizzying designs
40 Piquant
42 Huge
45 Pedestal occupant
46 Petri dish material
48 Nabokov title heroine
50 End
51 Before

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	A	G	S	■	M	O	B	■	S	M	O	G
A	U	R	A	■	A	W	L	■	P	A	N	E
I	T	E	M	■	N	E	O	■	I	N	C	A
N	O	G	O	O	D	■	W	A	R	D	E	R
■	■	■	S	K	I	■	■	P	E	A	■	■
C	O	M	A	■	B	O	M	B	A	R	D	S
A	B	A	■	■	L	M	A	■	■	I	R	E
N	I	N	E	T	E	E	N	■	O	N	Y	X
■	■	D	N	A	■	■	D	U	E	■	■	■
M	A	R	T	I	N	■	O	P	U	S	E	S
A	G	A	H	■	A	L	L	■	V	O	L	E
Y	O	K	E	■	V	I	I	■	R	U	M	P
O	G	E	E	■	Y	E	N	■	E	R	S	T

Yesterday's answer 7-23

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12					■	13			■	14		
15					■	16			17			
■	■	18			19			■	20			
21	22		■	23			■	24				
25			26	■	27		28			■	■	■
29				30		■	31			32	33	34
■	■	■	35			36		■	37			
38	39	40			■	41		42	■	43		
44				■	45				46		■	■
47				48			■	49			50	51
52			■	53				54				
55			■	56			■	57				

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elisabeth Moss, 33; Anna Paquin, 33; Jennifer Lopez, 46; Kristin Chenoweth, 47.

Happy Birthday: Assess your situation and make the necessary compensations. It's up to you to do the legwork if you want to get the rewards. Use your physical attributes and your strong sense of discipline to put into play exactly what you want to see happen this year. Don't wait for others to do things for you. Your numbers are 5, 16, 20, 26, 31, 43, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't keep secrets. Get things out in the open and resolve problems before they become irreversible. Now is not the time to get angry, so do what you can to expel excess energy through physical challenges. Compete against yourself. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't meddle unless you want to be blamed or caught in the middle of someone else's mess. Step back and focus on making changes to your appearance that will make you feel and look good. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your intelligence and knowledge to help you get what you want. Trying to manipulate a situation will bring about negative reactions from someone you thought you could trust. Learn from past experiences and be a little more secretive about your dealings. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Pursue something that will inspire you to revive old dreams, hopes and wishes. Reaching out to someone who can shed light on a plan you want to pursue will pay off. An interesting connection will leave you feeling optimistic.✪✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Problems will surface if you are overbearing. Take a step back and do your own thing while allowing others to do as they please. Less talk and more action will get you where you want to go without having to deal with repercussions.✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Live and learn. Getting involved in events or gatherings that help you get to know the people around you will do you good and give you greater insight into the type of relationships you can build. Love is highlighted.✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use your intelligence to get you through the day. Your ideas are good, but not everyone will agree with you. Don't let your emotions take over. Follow through with your plans and you will overcome any negativity you face. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let anyone ruin your day. Concentrate on positive alterations you can make to your appearance as well as your mental and emotional outlook. Take pride in who you are and what you can do. Ignore jealous remarks. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be taken advantage of if you are too helpful or if you try to buy love. Let others fend for themselves, and take care of your own personal interests. The best changes you can make will be the ones you do strictly for yourself.✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A moneymaking venture looks good. Don't feel the need to follow the crowd or act on impulse. A calculated approach will get you where you want to go, and the rewards you are after will surely follow. Love is highlighted.✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotions will be difficult to control. Say little and observe carefully. Work on self-improvement instead of criticizing others. It's self-evaluation that will improve your mood.✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An attractive financial offer will come from an unusual source. You can sign deals, negotiate or make a commitment that will improve your life and inspire you to reach for the stars. Do your thing and don't look back.✪✪✪✪

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6	4	7			
		2				8		
	6						1	
6			7		3			2
1								7
9			1		5			4
	4						2	
		5				3		
			8	9	1			

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	2	7	5	6	3	1	9
6	3	9	8	2	1	4	5	7
1	7	5	3	4	9	6	8	2
7	1	6	9	3	2	5	4	8
5	2	8	6	1	4	9	7	3
4	9	3	5	8	7	2	6	1
9	5	4	1	7	3	8	2	6
2	6	1	4	9	8	7	3	5
3	8	7	2	6	5	1	9	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DISORGANIZED PEOPLE **Solution: 7 letters**

T	E	S	H	U	F	F	L	E	A	R	N	B	M	N
L	U	G	G	A	G	E	C	I	F	F	O	R	O	E
S	S	O	A	O	B	S	T	A	C	L	E	I	O	H
N	T	H	G	R	F	I	N	D	C	N	T	E	R	C
O	R	Y	L	I	A	D	T	L	N	A	Z	F	D	T
I	O	D	C	S	D	G	U	A	N	I	O	C	E	I
T	P	L	I	H	A	T	L	I	T	R	Ⓣ	A	B	K
A	S	O	N	O	T	P	T	I	G	S	K	Ⓢ	A	T
T	T	H	O	E	A	S	R	E	U	S	E	E	Ⓞ	S
N	C	E	R	S	A	O	T	E	P	N	S	L	O	Ⓛ
E	E	S	H	R	I	E	S	A	V	A	T	E	I	O
S	J	U	C	R	S	L	P	U	D	E	X	I	M	P
E	O	O	P	O	O	E	A	R	J	U	N	K	D	P
R	R	H	L	O	R	D	C	L	O	C	A	T	E	Y
P	P	C	T	S	E	S	E	H	C	R	A	E	S	R

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Yesterday's Answer: Browser

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(1)Mason
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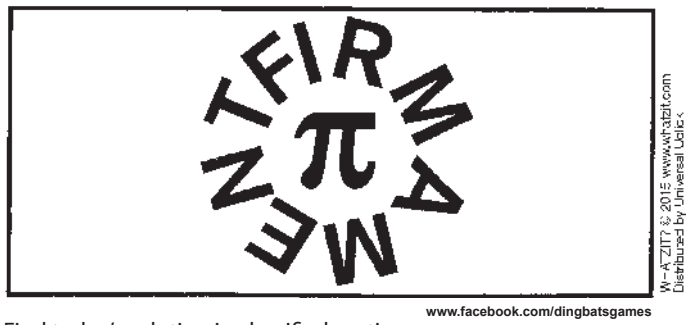

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Find today's solution in classified section

Hibbert, Williams, Bass eager for fresh starts with Lakers

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Right after Roy Hibbert, Lou Williams and Brandon Bass received their new gold jerseys Wednesday, they all spoke variations on the same theme.

The three veteran NBA players entered the summer looking for a fresh start, and they're all eager to get it with the Los Angeles Lakers.

They're also looking forward to playing with Kobe Bryant—after they get a chance to talk to him.

"I appreciate the Lakers getting me out here, and I'm going to work extremely hard to make sure the Lakers get back to where they should be," Hibbert said.

The Lakers were thrilled to swing a trade for Hibbert, the 7-foot-2 center who spent the past seven seasons with the Indiana Pacers. The two-time All-Star had already moved to Los Angeles before the deal happened, and he is determined to return to dominant defensive form after a perceived down season precipitated his departure from Indiana.

While the Pacers are trying to get smaller and faster, the Lakers could use a bulky stopper after struggling as one of the NBA's worst defensive teams last year.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers general manager, Mitch Kupchak, far left, introduces three NBA veterans, Roy Hibbert, 17, Lou Williams, 23, and Brandon Bass, 2, during a news conference in El Segundo, Calif., on Wednesday, July 22, 2015.

"Looking at the team here, they have a lot of firepower," Hibbert said. "My main presence is going to be at the rim. Last year, the Lakers were (29th) in defensive efficiency, so my job is to make sure I clog up the paint, (provide) help-side defense, and whatever else I get on the offensive end is candy."

Hibbert's perceived decline last season wasn't visible in most statistics. He started 76 games and averaged 10.6 points, 7.1 rebounds and 1.6 blocked shots per game—all numbers that look great to the Lakers.

"In this business, if you can have somebody that size that's 28 years old, that clearly wants to rebirth his career, I think that's a good risk," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said.

Hibbert is entering the final year of his contract with free agency looming, but he already feels a connection to the lineage of great Lakers centers. He watched Shaquille O'Neal's rise intently while growing up, and he has worked with Lakers great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in the past.

"Kareem reaches out to me," Hibbert said. "He comes to watch my workouts, and we stay in touch for the most part. He gives me little tidbits. I worked with him a lot last year. He keeps up with me, so he always gives me some advice, something to work on."

After striking out with the biggest free agents on the market following the worst season in franchise history, the Lakers restocked their roster with a mix of veteran acquisitions and young talent led by No. 2 overall draft pick D'Angelo Russell.

Williams got a three-year, $21 million contract after the best season of his career with the Toronto Raptors, averaging 15.5 points as the league's Sixth Man of the Year. He believes there will be plenty of shots to go around when he plays with Bryant and Nick Young, saying the player to shoot the ball will be "whoever has it."

Toronto didn't make much of an effort to retain Williams, who said he has "no idea" why the Raptors let him walk.

"This is an organization with a very rich tradition," Williams said. "Some of the greatest players in the world have come out of the Lakers organization ... so I'm proud to be a part of that family."

Bass revealed a secret he kept buried during the past four seasons with the Boston Celtics: He was a Lakers fan in college at LSU, partly due to their similar purple-and-gold color schemes.

Bass was a starter for most of his four seasons in Boston, but he is willing to play any role required by Lakers coach Byron Scott, his coach for his first two NBA seasons with the Hornets in New Orleans and Oklahoma City.

None of the Lakers' newcomers has spoken with Bryant yet, a fact revealed by a news conference question that led to an awkward silence. Bryant has been on vacation.

Bryant's last three seasons have ended early due to injuries, including a shoulder injury last season. The third-leading scorer in league history is expected back in the fall for his 20th season, making an NBA-high $25 million.

What goes up also goes down at Tour, but Froome keeps lead

PRA LOUP, France (AP)—The speedometer clocked between 50 and 60 kilometers per hour (30-37 mph) as the pine trees whipped by, and the riders leaned left to right and back again to negotiate the snaking, bumpy descent.

Winning the Tour de France isn't only about having the ability to get uphill fast. You've got to have nerves of steel going downhill too.

Chris Froome proved Wednesday that he's got both.

The 30-year-old Briton retained the leader's yellow jersey as the Tour sped toward its crescendo in the Alps.

The 17th stage included a harrowing 16-kilometer (10-mile) descent that dealt perhaps the final blow to Alberto Contador's distant hope of a third Tour victory and doused the ambitions of promising French rider Thibaut Pinot for a stage win. They both lost time after hitting the asphalt on the way down from the treacherous Allos Pass.

Germany's Simon Geschke won the stage by surging out of a breakaway bunch and keeping at bay Andrew Talansky of the U.S., who was second, by 32 seconds at the end of the 161-kilometer (100-mile) ride from Digne-Les-Bains to Pra Loup ski resort.

Fellow American Tejay van Garderen, who was third overall as the stage began, pulled out of the race with a headache and a lack of energy after fighting a respiratory infection for several days.

"It almost feels like I just want to disappear right now," said a despondent Van Garderen. "It was hard to look my teammates in the eyes (and) it was hard to call my wife and explain to her what was going on."

Froome, meanwhile, emerged unscathed in the first of four punishing days in the Alps, staving off multiple attacks from his top rivals. He showed great bike-handling skill on the Allos descent, where he whizzed in single-file with three of them, each kicking out knees on the twisting, narrow bends.

Geschke was first down the slope, having ridden off ahead with 50 kilometers (30 miles) still to go. Pinot hit the deck when his wheels slipped from under him on a left-hand bend.

"It was really challenging," said Geschke, whose stage victory was the fifth by a German on this Tour, and ideal for an event that is back on public TV in Germany after a hiatus of several years because of doping scandals that tarnished the sport's image.

"The best day of my life as a rider," he said of his win.

Contador hit a hole and crashed in the downhill section, tearing his shorts. The 2007 and 2009 champion was forced to swap bikes with teammate Peter Sagan, and rode in more than two minutes after Froome.

"My wheel slipped and I fell. We tried to fix my bike but it wasn't working and I took Peter's bike," Contador said. "I tried to descend as well as I could, but at the bottom of the climb I had to change back to one of my own bikes to minimize the losses."

While the Spaniard stays in fifth place, the Tinkoff-Saxo leader who was hoping to add the Tour to his Giro d'Italia win in May is now a substantial 6 minutes and 40 seconds behind the Team Sky rider overall—and all but out of contention.

Froome and Nairo Quintana sprinted together for the line, with the Colombian just beating the Briton this time. Quintana remains second overall—still 3:10 behind Froome—but was very active over the day's five climbs, testing Froome with bursts of speed that the 2013 Tour winner was forced to match.

With time running out for podium contenders to claw back a few minutes, Froome is expecting more attacks in the next three days of progressively harder Alpine climbing before the largely ceremonial ride on the Champs-Elysees in Paris on Sunday.

"My rivals are going to take bigger risks," Froome said. "We are seeing an all-or-nothing approach."

The descent wasn't unknown to Froome. He'd previously raced and trained on it and that inside knowledge helped him negotiate the bends.

"I have never felt that descending has really been a weakness for me. I have always been quite comfortable on the descents," he said.

Alejandro Valverde of Spain, Quintana's Movistar teammate who has been riding strongly, rose from fourth to third overall, 4:09 behind Froome. Froome's Sky teammate Geraint Thomas climbed from sixth to fourth, vaulting over Contador, and is 6:34 behind his team leader.

Riding solo for over an hour from such a long way out, up the two final climbs and alone down the descent was risky. But Geschke said he knew that other riders in his group were stronger climbers, so he decided to shake them off as early as he could.

"I took the only chance I had," he said. "I thought, `OK. If it doesn't work out, it doesn't work out.'"

SIDEBAR

NBA leaning toward no playoff guarantee for division winners

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A division title might soon mean a banner but no assurance of a playoff spot in the NBA.

Commissioner Adam Silver said Wednesday the league is leaning toward not guaranteeing a postseason berth to a team that wins its division, forcing clubs to finish in the top eight of their conference if they want a shot at the title.

Silver had already said he expected a change from the current format that guarantees division winners no worse than the No. 4 seed. But after discussions with both the competition committee and board of governors, he believes the change will go further than that.

"First of all, it's never happened before that a division winner did not finish within the top eight, and our basketball analytics folks calculate that there's less than a 5 percent chance that it would happen," he said before taking part in a panel discussion at the "Beyond Sport United" program.

"Where we are leaning right now is that we would not guarantee a spot for a division winner in part because it's so unlikely to happen, and No. 2 if it does happen it would be potentially confusing to fans. No. 3, you would be displacing a team that did have a top-eight record."

Portland got the No. 4 seed in the Western Conference last season by winning the Northwest Division, but the Trail Blazers would have been seeded sixth by win-loss record. That sparked new calls to throw out the protection for division winners, and Silver said after the owners' annual summer meeting in Las Vegas that change was coming, though they wanted more time before voting on it.

"So while we're going to continue to discuss it a little bit more—we need to make a decision before the preseason begins—I think the greater likelihood is we will not be guaranteeing a spot to a division winner," he said Wednesday.

Silver added it was too far off to talk about whether owners would opt out of the collective bargaining agreement in 2017, after saying last week that a significant number of teams were still losing money.

He was then joined by former NBA star and league global ambassador Dikembe Mutombo and women's great Teresa Edwards in discussing the social responsibilities of the league and its players. Commissioners Rob Manfred of Major League Baseball and Gary Bettman of the NHL took part in other panels.

Brantley homers with 4 RBIs as Indians top Brewers, 7-5

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Michael Brantley homered, doubled and drove in four runs, and Cleveland closer Cody Allen withstood a rocky ninth to help the Indians hold on for a 7-5 win over the Milwaukee Brewers on Wednesday.

Allen entered the game with a three-run lead. But a string of 5 1-3 scoreless innings for the bullpen ended with Adam Lind's RBI double with one out in the ninth. A single for Aramis Ramirez put runners on first and third before Khris Davis hit into a game-ending double play started by third baseman Giovanny Urshela.

Allen pumped his fist on the mound after picking up his 20th save. Austin Adams (1-0) threw 1 1-3 innings of scoreless relief.

Cleveland snapped an eight-game losing streak dating to 2001 in the interleague series with the Brewers.

Struggling Milwaukee starter Kyle Lohse (5-11) allowed 10 hits and five runs in five innings.

Brantley hit a three-run shot in the third to tie the game at 4, then delivered an RBI single in the fifth to give the Indians the lead for good.

The bullpen backed Brantley's big day at the plate, limiting the Brewers until the ninth.

The Brewers had other chances against the bullpen.

AP

Cleveland Indians' Michael Brantley, right, shakes hands with teammate Francisco Lindor after hitting a three-run hom run off Milwaukee Brewers' Kyle Lohse during the third inning of a baseball game Wednesday, July 22, 2015, in Milwaukee.

With Cleveland leading by two, Bryan Shaw allowed Scooter Gennett to reach on an infield single to lead off the eighth before getting Ryan Braun to fly out and Gerardo Parra to bounce into an inning-ending double play.

It was in stark contrast to the early innings for the Brewers, who got to Cleveland starter Cody Anderson for 10 hits and four runs in 2 2-3 innings. It was the worst game in five major league starts for the rookie, who saw his ERA rise from 0.89 to 1.91.

Lind hit his 16th homer, a two-run shot, to help build a 3-1 lead in the first for Milwaukee.

But the top of the Indians' order got to Lohse. Jason Kipnis, Francisco Lindor and Brantley combined to go 6 of 8 with a walk over the first five innings.

Lohse's era rose to 6.29, and he has allowed 23 homers, second-most in the NL.

Cardinals 3, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Yadier Molina hit a bases-loaded triple off David Robertson with two out in the eighth inning, sending St. Louis to victory. Randal Grichuk singled, Matt Holliday was hit by a pitch and Jason Heyward reached on catcher's interference before Molina drove a 2-2 pitch into the corner in right for his third hit of the game.

Phillies 5, Rays 4, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, Pinch-hitter Odubel Herrera's RBI single with two outs in the 10th lifted Philadelphia, which lost a franchise-record 62 games before the All-Star break, but are 5-1 since returning.

Rangers 10, Rockies 8

In Denver, Elvis Andrus hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the ninth, and Texas bounced back from blowing an early five-run lead. Rougned Odor homered and finished with three hits for the third time in the last six games for the Rangers.

Royals 5, Pirates 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, Edinson Volquez pitched effectively into the eighth inning against his old team, and Mike Moustakas hit a three-run homer to boost Kansas City. Volquez (9-5), who won 13 games last season for the Pirates, picked up his first victory since June 26. He allowed one run on eight hits, while walking one and striking out eight.

Dodgers 3, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Mike Bolsinger pitched seven strong innings and Los Angeles scored three runs in the fifth inning to secure the win.

Nationals 4, Mets 3

In Washington, Michael Taylor had a tying two-out, two-run single in the eighth inning, Danny Espinosa followed with an RBI double and Washington rallied from three runs down.

Giants 7, Padres 1

In San Diego, Brandon Belt hit a tying solo home run in the sixth inning and Buster Posey hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the seventh to lead San Francisco, which took two of three and has won eight of nine overall.

Yankees 4, Orioles 3

In New York, Alex Rodriguez hit the 20th homer of his renaissance season and Mark Teixeira connected for an early two-run shot to boost New York.

Astros 4, Red Sox 2

In Houston, Preston Tucker homered twice and drove in three runs and Evan Gattis added a solo shot for Houston.

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Traditional carvers shape Yap Games trophies

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A group of master craftsmen on Yap has carved "Carolina Proa" trophies for the 5th Annual Yap Games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A complete canoe model decorated with red and black paint is for gold medalists. Those painted black and naturally varnished are for silver and bronze winners, respectively.

YAP, Micronesia—A group of master craftsmen on Yap are using cultural skills and traditional designs to create trophies for winning athletes in that Micronesian state's sports tournament.

The 5th Annual Yap Games opened to a large crowd in mid-July at the Yap Sports Complex Gymnasium. Nearly 900 athletes, representing 10 municipalities across Yap, are competing in a dozen separate sports. Among the most popular are basketball, soccer, and wrestling, according to Paul Lane, director of Yap's Sports Council.

Organizers have partnered with Waa'gey, a group organizing efforts of local carvers, to developed distinctive traditionally inspired trophies. These symbols of reward and recognition are modeled after the "Carolina Proa," a complex all wood outrigger canoe design perfected—and made famous—by Micronesians

A complete canoe model decorated with red and black paint is for gold medalists. Those painted black and naturally varnished are for silver and bronze winners, respectively.

Waa'gey is a community-based organization that uses traditional skills to confront the social, economic and environmental challenges faced by the people of Micronesia's most remote outer islands. The group pursues preservation of native technologies and arts both to protect our distinctive Island identity, and to solve specific problems relating to import dependency, urbanization, climate change, and unemployment.

Among the carvers directing work on these unique trophies are Carlos Yarofaireg, Henry Mailuw, Johnny Retiglur, and Larry Raigetal, all of Lamotrek Atoll. ***(PR)***

Master craftsmen carve "Carolina Proa" trophies. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

US ponders a shocking loss; Mexico advances with ugly win

ATLANTA (AP)—After the feel-good summer of 2014, the United States was eager to pick up another Gold Cup title and lock up its spot in the next Confederations Cup.

Instead, the Americans are dealing with one of their most shocking losses.

Giving up two first-half goals on set plays, one delivered by goalkeeper Brad Guzan's blunder on a routine throw, the U.S. fell to Jamaica 2-1 in the Gold Cup semifinals Wednesday night.

Forget another CONCACAF title.

That will go to either Mexico or Jamaica, who meet in Sunday's final at Philadelphia.

As for the Americans, it's time to figure out what went wrong after the first home loss to a Caribbean nation since a 1969 defeat to Haiti. They also face a playoff with this year's Gold Cup winner for the North and Central American and Caribbean berth in the 2017 Confederations Cup.

"We have no choice but to move ourselves forward," captain Michael Bradley said. "It's disappointing right now. That's normal."

A year ago, the American men reached the knockout round of the World Cup before losing to Belgium in extra time, giving the world's most popular game a bit more of a foothold in a country still dominated by football, baseball and basketball. Throw in this month's victory in the Women's World Cup, and U.S. soccer was really on a roll.

Well, before more than 70,000 in the sold-out Georgia Dome, the Americans were tripped up by an island nation of some 2.9 million - roughly half the population of metro Atlanta.

"The feeling right now is insane," said Giles Barnes, after scoring one of Jamaica's goals off a free kick.

Barnes' goal from 18 yards, a hooking blast that sailed over the American wall in the 36th minute, wouldn't have been possible if not for Guzan extending his right arm - and the ball - across the penalty line while making a throw.

"I was running down the field when I heard we had a free kick," said Barnes, who plays in Major League Soccer with Houston Dynamo. "I didn't know what was happening there."

The 34th-ranked Americans were stunned by the ruling.

"It's a call you don't see very often," Bradley said. "It's a call I wouldn't be making if I was a referee. But I'm not a referee."

Talk about disputed calls.

Mexico rallied for a 2-1 victory over Panama on two late penalty kicks by Andres Guardado—one in stoppage time, the other in extra time.

After Roman Torres headed one in off a corner early in the second half, Panama nearly pulled off the second upset of the night, despite playing a man down most of the game. Luis Tejada was sent off with a red card after a hard tackle in the 25th minute.

When American referee Mark Geiger signaled a penalty kick for Mexico with the clock winding down in the second half, ruling Torres touched the ball with his hand in front of the goal while falling to the turf contesting a loose ball, the Panamanians erupted in protest. As fans showered the field with cups and trash, the two teams nearly came to blows between their benches. The match was halted for nearly 15 minutes before Guardado finally converted the penalty.

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volved in baseball for most part of their lives.

The two candidates submitted their credentials, letter of intent, and other requirements to election board chair Guerrero where it will also be forwarded to Little League headquarters.

Ada has been involved with the CNMI Little League program since the '90s and served as the Commonwealth's district administrator in mid-2000s before being replaced by Borja. The DPW secretary was also the tournament director when Saipan hosted the Asia Pacific regionals in 2008 and this year.

Rogolifoi, on the other hand, was a former director of the now defunct Division of Sports and Recreation and has been the SBL coordinator for more than 10 years now. He guided the CNMI to gold medals in the 2006 Saipan Micronesian Games and the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia, and became NMSA executive director when the sports organization became a private entity.

FORMER

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to win the grand prize that year. They took home a total cash prize of $14,600 for that record-breaking marlin.

The *Emmanuel* broke the previous marlin record of 624.34 lbs caught by Captain Danny Agulto in 1997.

Another Guam entry, captain George Quichocho and the crew of the *Angela Gale* arrived Thursday morning.

Organizers are expecting more participants from Guam, Rota, and Tinian to arrive today to pre-register their boats at the Smiling Cove Marina.

The Marianas Visitors Authority, Docomo Pacific, Century Insurance, Mobil Oil Marianas, Budweiser, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc., Yamaha/Joeten Motors, T Galleria, Coca Cola/Foremost, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife are the tournament sponsors.

For more information, call Martin Duenas, at the MVA at 6643200 or the SFA committee at 483-8425.

CRAZY

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distance, 7-1.

Cultura and Garcia kept on fighting for the Destroyers after emerging victorious in the last Partner's 8-Ball against Pinangay and Dela Cruz. Pinangay, however, moved the Crazy 8 to the title with another win over Cultura in the final set of Singles matches.

Sangalang gave the Destroyers their last win when he bested Dela Cruz, while Formales sealed the Crazy 8's title win after thwarting Garcia.

The Crazy 8, who placed third after the regular season, scored a 9-4 win over the Jokers STR8 Shooters then squeezed out a 9-8 decision over runner-up Smoke Pub Armatech Hustlers, who is responsible in knocking out regular season champions Jokers IT&E Voyagers, 9-2.

The Destroyers pulled off a 9-4 triumph over the Abyss Homeboyz II to earn the right of facing the Crazy 8 in the title match.

Guam-Saipan friendly

In other billiards news, Saipan will be hosting Guam in a friendly 5-on-5 billiards tournament on Saturday at 2pm at the Abyss bar in Garapan.

It will feature the most valuable players of each squad in an 8-nall, singles, and race-to-10 matches.

Cultura, Patrick Cepeda, Manny Mariano, Jerry Soriano, and Rolly Villanueva will be representing Team Saipan.

Darts Bud Light Cup

In the Bud Light Cup's A division, the Smoke Pub Voyagers got the better of sister team Huntlaw in last Monday night's finals at their home bar in Garapan. The Voyagers coasted to a 9-1 victory.

Jemar Merigmen, Jhun Agbuya, Cris Monsanto, and Jhun Echave quickly imposed their will and snuffed out any chance for the Huntlaw to recover to complete the easy win.

Mario Abo gave the Huntlaw its lone win when it defeated Agbuya in the Singles 501 Double In/Double Out event.

The Voyagers tripped the Sand Juvy 101 Proofers, 9-5, to earn a finals berth, while the Huntlaw followed suit after a 9-4 crushing of Sakude.

The Voyagers also defeated the Mafia, 9-4, while the Huntlaw trounced No Fear, 9-5, to arrange a finals showdown.

Road To Ironman Triathlon and Bike Race

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Florence Antonio was the ninth swimmer out of the water with a time of 15:22 in last Saturday's Islander Rent-A-Car Road To Ironman Triathlon and Bike Race at the Pau Pau beach Park.

Kaitlin Mattos runs to the bike transition area.

Youngsters David Boyer, right, and Jinju Thompson run toward the beach after completing the 1-kilometer swim around Pau Pau.

Jeanie Thompson was the fourth fastest swimmer.

Tiffany Lin heads toward the transition area where teammate Joshua Berger is waiting for the bike leg of the race.

Tomomi Sato runs to the beach side after coming out of the water.

Mamiko Berger walks slowly as she tries to catch her breath after finishing the 1K swim.

Ben Tabin of Team BRX.

Tomomi Sato runs to the beach side after coming out of the water.

Atsuko Sato completes the swim leg of the triathlon.

Hibbert, Williams, Bass eager for fresh starts with Lakers

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Sports

Traditional carvers shape Yap Games trophies

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Former champs join fishing tourney

Captain John Hattig, second left, and captain Mike James, third right, and their crew enjoy a light moment after arriving at the Smiling Cove Marina in time for this weekend's 31st Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

Captain George Quichocho, far right, and the crew of the *Angela Gale* take a break after arriving on Saipan on Thursday. Quichocho and his crew made the northern trip to join the 31st Anual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Two former champions from Guam will be among those crowding for the overall title when the two-day 31st Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament kicks off this weekend at the Smiling Cove Marina.

The opening is on Saturday and anglers will have one more day to reel in what could be the tournament's biggest catch on Sunday.

Boats head off to find the heaviest fish at 6am and must be at Smiling Cove Marina by 6pm on both days for their catch to be weighed and be listed as official entries for the tournament.

Captain Mike James and his crew of the *Emmanuel* and his counterpart John Hattig with his crew arrived on Saipan Wednesday morning.

Hattig will be the captain of *Goru* this time after boat owner Frank Roberto is currently in the Philippines for vacation and rest.

Hattig, who have won top prizes in the Mahi Mahi and Wahoo categories of previous Saipan Fishing Association events, will try to defend Roberto's overall title.

In last year's edition, Roberto and his 12-year-old son Aaron ruled the fishing tournament after reeling in a 276-lb marlin.

Team *Goru* will have James and the *Emmanuel* crew as one of its top opponents after a record-breaking feat in the 2012 edition.

James and his crew fought for three hours before reeling in a 942-lb Pacific Blue Marlin

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Internet causes problems on DA election

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Internet outage that the CNMI has been experiencing the last two weeks has stalled the election of the next district administrator as election board chair Robert Guerrero has yet to send a packet to Rota.

Guerrero, who supervised the election last July 3, said in an interview that he needs to send a packet to Rota.

"Internet has been the issue that's why there's still no DA. We can't do anything about it since I need to send it via email. We're just waiting for the connection to get fixed and return to normal," said Guerrero in a telephone interview.

"Hopefully our Internet connection gets better next week so a decision could be made and we finally have a DA," added Guerrero.

Former DA and current Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada and Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director and Saipan Baseball League coordinator Tony Rogoilfoi are the two candidates vying for the post to be vacated by Mike Borja.

Guerrero said Little League headquarters in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania will decide who will be the next CNMI DA after voting last July 3 ended up 1-1.

Representatives of the chartered Little Leagues of Saipan and Rota voted for the next district administrator. Tinian failed to vote since they failed to get chartered this year.

"We just have to wait for the decision," Guerrero said.

Both Ada and Rogolifoi have served in various capacities under the Saipan Little League program and have been in-

See INTERNET on Page 30

JON PEREZ

Intensifying the CNMI's Little League baseball program and helping Rota and Tinian raise their level should be the next district administrator's focus.

Crazy 8, Voyagers rule billiards, darts leagues

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Abyss Crazy 8 and the Smoke Pub Voyagers ruled their respective divisions of their leagues as the two Pacific Amusement-organized events ended last week in various venues on Saipan.

The Crazy 8 bested the Smoke Pub Ali'I Destroyers, 9-3, in the finals of the Budweiser Cup-Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Tuesday League.

It was a 3-on-3 finals affair as both teams chose to field in their three best cue artists since nine of the 12 matches played in the race-to-nine contest were in singles.

Rey Pinangay and Rodel Dela Cruz defeated Nolan Cultura and Cesar Sangalang to open up the Crazy 8's title bid.

The Crazy 8 won four straight after that as Pinangay, Dela Cruz, and Victor Formales downed Cultura, Sangalang, and Jeff Garcia.

Cultura gave the Destroyers their first win after beating Pinangay but Dela Cruz and Formales bounced back in the next two Singles matches to keep the Crazy 8 at a safer

See CRAZY on Page 30

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Smoke Pub Voyagers topped the A Division of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association's Bud Light Cup. The Voyagers complete the list of champions in the eight-division darts league.